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A Weekly Journal of Pharmacy and the Drug-trade.

ESTABLISHED 1859.

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#### MERCHANT SHIPPERS' NUMBER.

THIS important issue of *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* will be published on March 10, and copies will be sent to every shipper of druggists' goods in the United Kingdom. Merchants often have great difficulty in discovering the makers of goods on their foreign indents, and the object of this special circulation is to facilitate communication between manufacturers and exporters. Full details will be supplied on application to the Publisher, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

#### POSTCARD COMPETITION.

FEBRUARY.

THE Parliamentary Session has opened, and it will be a specially important one for chemists and druggists. The Companies Bill is the first item on the legislative programme, and chemists throughout the country should write to their Parliamentary representatives about it. What should they say? We shall be glad if our subscribers and their employes will write us model letters to an M.P. Telling and terse letters they should be. One guinea will be awarded to the best one. A prompt response to this request will be good for the trade.

## Summary.

AMERICAN AND RUSSIAN CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS are having their lot as workers looked into by the authorities (p. 218).

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY have secured the conviction of a Pathgate grocer for selling a belladonna plaster (p. 222).

THE NEED for chemists taking prompt action on the Companies Bill, if it contains a pharmacy-clause, is indicated on p. 217.

THE HARTLEY BOTANICAL LABORATORY in Liverpool University College is to be one of the best equipped of the kind (p. 202).

MR. WADDINGTON, speaking to Bradford chemists, has advocated restrictions on the prescribing and sale of proprietary articles (p. 211).

PRESCRIPTION-READING is the subject dealt with in the Students' Corner, advice being given to students on how to keep up their Latin (p. 214).

SOME IDEA of the amount of medicines consumed by the poor of large cities is obtained from the statement of the supplies required by Paris this year (p. 204).

THERE is little doing on the market this week, the principal changes are a drop in cocaine, and an advance in phenacetin, and German camphor (p. 232).

MR. ELLIOT, a Toronto wholesale druggist, says that British houses have lost their Canadian connection by not paying sufficient attention to the business (p. 231).

"XRAYSER" crosses swords with Mr. Glyn-Jones regarding the grocers' action on the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, and shows that the federation secured nothing (p. 215).

MR. TAYLOR, a Glasgow assistant, suggests as a remedy for pharmaceutical competition that pharmacy and pharmacists should be made a branch of the Civil Service (p. 211).

THE deaths from anaesthetics in England during 1889, have been tabulated by a correspondent, who maintains that they could have been avoided by the use of Snow's method (p. 229).

THE LORD ADVOCATE seems to favour the view that poisons in sealed packets may be sold by unqualified persons. We ask the Pharmaceutical Society to convince him to the contrary (p. 218).

MR. A. S. BUCK, in his presidential address to the Liverpool Chemists' Association, planned how chemists might get more dispensing and reviewed the Company-pharmacy movement (p. 206).

THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION commenced on Tuesday. The Government promise a measure to effect Australian Federation (p. 216) and to introduce the Companies Bill into the House of Commons (p. 217).

SIX MEDICINES are all that are required for campaigners' medicine-cases, according to the C.A.A., whose members also favour a charge for night-calls, and division of the Minor with reservations (p. 207).

IN A PAPER ON BALSAM OF TOLU, Messrs. Spilsbury & Joyce show the need for determining the cinnamic-acid value of the balsam rather than the saponification number, and give figures for five samples (p. 208).

IT IS POINTED OUT on p. 215 that the Manx House of Keys has muddled the equivalent of the Pharmacy Act, seventeenth section, by substituting the word "Act" for "Section," thereby making qualified assistants unnecessary.

WE REPORT the interview which tar-distillers and wholesale druggists had with the Government authorities at the Home Office, when they received a favourable hearing to their view that carbolic acid should be exported under adequate guarantee (p. 220).

DISPENSING NOTES, read by Mr. D. B. Kidd to the Edinburgh Assistants' Association, show that strontium bromide and sodium bicarbonate should not be prescribed together, also that the old tr. nuc. vem. gives clear mixtures where the new does not, and that powders containing phenazone, caffeine citrate, and sodium nitrite, become green (p. 209).

P—C



## English News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

### Warwickshire Drugs.

Dr. Bealock Hill, county analyst for Warwickshire, in his quarterly report states that amongst the samples submitted to him were two of sweet nitre, one of which was deficient of at least 90 per cent. of ethyl nitrite. One of two samples of camphorated oil was 20 per cent. deficient in camphor, while the only sample of tincture of rhubarb was made according to the old Pharmacopœia, and was devoid of glycerin. With respect to the latter case, the defence was that the vendors bought the tincture before the new Pharmacopœia was published, and that, under the old Pharmacopœia, glycerin was not one of the required constituents. As he could not prove that the British Pharmacopœia was a legal standard for drugs, the case was dismissed.

### The Hartley Botanical Laboratory.

The Botanical Laboratory presented by Mr. W. P. Hartley to the Liverpool University College promises, when completed, to be an efficiently equipped institution. The building will be in three floors; the ground floor being chiefly occupied by a museum, in which will be exhibited morphological specimens and models, and economic products, including those of pharmaceutical interest. A lift will place the museum in communication with the class-rooms above. The first floor for the most part will be devoted to a lecture theatre, capable of holding a hundred students; it will be of the approved sloping-floor type, and will be fitted with a specially designed lecture-table. On the second floor the junior laboratory will be situated with accommodation for sixty-five students; and on the roof a small greenhouse. There will be fully equipped research and experimental physiology laboratories, a dark-room, and a herbarium. Senior students will have a separate laboratory fitted for twelve workers, and a special class-room. In addition, there will be private rooms and laboratories for the professor and demonstrator, a departmental library, a staff laboratory, a preparation-room, and a workshop. Professor Harvey Gibson, of Liverpool University College—who is not unknown to pharmacy students—has aided in the designing of the fittings and furniture.

### Analysts at Dinner.

On Wednesday, January 24, the Society of Public Analysts had their annual dinner in the Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly Circus, W. The Presidents of the leading scientific Societies (including Mr. William Martindale, of the Pharmaceutical Society) were present as guests. Mr. W. W. Fisher, M.A., F.C.S., Oxford, presided, and, in reply to the toast of "The Society," said that the work of public analysts had resulted in a reduction of adulteration to 10 per cent. of the samples examined.

### The Manufacture of Gelatin.

A proposal to start a gelatin-manufacture has provoked discussion at Writtle, and letters of protest were addressed by some of the residents to the local authorities, urging that such an establishment would be detrimental to the value of local property. The question was finally referred to the Chelmsford Rural District Council, at whose meeting last week a representative of the firm who propose to build the factory explained that the manufacture of gelatin was not an offensive process, and no nuisance would be created. The Council thereupon gave permission to Messrs. Simeons & Co. to erect a factory at Writtle.

### Tit for Tat.

A Norwich grocer with some half-dozen branch shops is making an effort to capture some part of the local druggists' business by running glycerin as a leading line at 50 per cent. discount upon ordinary prices. The Norwich chemists have not thus far attempted retaliation as a Yarmouth stationer did recently, when one of the shops of Boots (Limited), opposite his own, commenced the sale of stationery. The

local stationer forthwith undertook to sell for a penny per box a much-advertised popular pill listed at 1s. 1½d., and it was not until a large distribution of pills had taken place upon these novel conditions that a truce between the conflicting commercial interests was arranged, and the warfare has not since been renewed.

### Phosphorus from the Sea.

The Yarmouth Customs authorities have received a large case brought up in a local trawler's net some 200 miles out in the North Sea, which was found to contain sticks of phosphorus, of a yellowish tint, about 1 inch in diameter. The authorities believe this to be of some value, but they are in the difficulty of not knowing where to find a purchaser for this unusual North Sea product.

### The Irrepressible Coroner.

On January 29, at the Wandsworth Town Hall, Mr. A. Braxton Hicks held an inquest upon the body of Jemima James, aged 16 months, who died after some cough-mixture, obtained from a chemist in the High Street, Wandsworth, had been administered. The mother deposed that she described the child's symptoms before the cough-mixture was given her, and the Coroner passed some severe strictures on chemists prescribing for children on the mere word of the parents or friends. To his (the Coroner's) mind they ought to know better than prostitute their business in this way. Dr. Williams, who was called in, ascribed death to pneumonia, and the jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes.

At an inquest held at Salford on January 27, on the body of a child, 2 years of age, named Hughes, it was stated that deceased had been suffering from bronchitis and was attended by a doctor, but growing worse, the mother consulted Mr. James Denton, chemist, Regent Road, who gave her a mixture and a liniment for the child. These were used as directed, but the child died; and Mr. Denton deposed that the medicine and liniment given were the same that he had prescribed for such complaints for the last fifty years. Mr. Holmes (Coroner): You had no right to prescribe. Mr. Denton: I told Mrs. Hughes she ought to take the child to a doctor. Mr. Holmes: I have no doubt you are a chemist of great experience, but the law does not allow you to prescribe. A verdict of death from natural causes was returned.

### A Misadventure.

At an inquest at Liverpool on January 25, on the body of Ethel Jones, aged 6 years and 10 months, evidence was given that deceased, who was in a weak state, complained very bitterly of pains in the head, for which her father purchased two "Daisy" powders from Mr. C. Codd, chemist, 87 Hale road. He gave the child half a powder, as directed on the packet, but next day his wife gave the child a whole powder by mistake, and she became so ill that Dr. Baxter was called in and attended to the child until her death. Mr. Codd stated that he did not know the constituents of the powder, but had sold a tremendous lot of them, and always considered them harmless. Dr. Baxter had no doubt the child died from paralysis of the centre of respiration, caused by taking too much of the powder. He did not think it was sufficiently stated that the powders were not for young children. In his opinion a whole powder would be sufficient to produce the death of a child of such age as the deceased. He did not think, however, it would have had a fatal result had the directions been observed. It was not a fit remedy to give to children under 12 years of age, unless under proper medical advice.

Mr. John Robert Ellis, managing director of the Daisy (Limited), stated that he had never known of a similar case. They had two certificates, one from a medical man and one from an analyst, as to the harmlessness and purity of the drug, which was of vegetable origin. They had sold upwards of forty millions of the powders.

The Coroner called attention to what he conceived to be a misleading direction on the wrapper. Some direction, he said, was wanted as to the proper quantity to be given to children under the age of 12 years. Mr. Ellis said the company would comply with that direction, and a verdict of death from misadventure was returned.

**The Doctor's Opinion.**

An inquiry was held at Mossley on January 19, respecting the death of a widow named Platt (see *C. & D.*, January 27, page 115) from alleged ammonia poisoning. Dr. A. W. Harrison, whom the Coroner declined to call as a witness, has since publicly declared that deceased did not show any signs of poisoning by ammonia, and has expressed the opinion that the woman did not swallow an overdose of ammonia, but only took some to help her "to get her wind." Death, he said, was really due to a large carbuncle, which was mortifying and had drained her strength away.

**Benzoline Poisoning.**

At Knottingley, on January 24, a woman named Kershaw drank a quantity of benzoline, and was afterwards found dead. The doctor certified that death was due to poisoning by benzoline.

**Cyanide instead of Eno's.**

On January 25, Dr. William Langworthy Baker, of Forest Hill, as was his morning practice, went to prepare himself a dose of Eno's fruit-salt, but, by mistake, mixed a draught of cyanide of potassium, which he drank, dying shortly afterwards.

**Ammonia for Quinine-wine.**

At an inquest held at Owenduff, Halifax, on January 33, on the body of Martha Jowett (73), it transpired that deceased drank some liquid ammonia from a bottle which was labelled "Orange quinine-wine." Several jurors said the label should have been removed from the wine-bottle before the ammonia was put into it.

**Carbolic Victims.**

A man named Fletcher died in Rochester Hospital on January 25, from carbolic-acid poisoning.

Alice Meadows (31), the wife of a commercial clerk, living at Catford, committed suicide on January 27 by drinking carbolic acid, which she obtained from an Italian warehouseman named Edward Hassall. At the inquest held on January 30, Hassall said there was no restriction against him selling carbolic, but he usually was very careful, because two years ago a similar case occurred.

On January 29, an inquest was held at Southwark on the body of Ellen Haraway (64), who committed suicide by taking carbolic acid. The daughter of deceased, in the course of her evidence, stated that she asked her mother where she got the carbolic acid, to which deceased replied, "I have not lived to sixty-four without knowing where to get poison, my girl. If the chemist won't sell it, you can get it at Williams's." Witness knew Williams as the name of an oilshop-keeper, but he denied serving the deceased with carbolic acid.

**"Bichromide of Potassium."**

An inquiry was held at Liverpool on January 24, relating to the death of Elizabeth Milton (21), from potassium-bichromate poisoning. Deceased suffered from neuralgia, and her brother wrote "bichromide of potassium" on a piece of paper, telling the husband to get it from a chemist and it would cure the pain. The husband took the paper to Mr. F. Cook, manager of Warhurst's pharmacy at 101 Stanley Road, and was supplied with bichromate of potassium labelled "poison." Without looking at the label deceased's husband gave about  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. of this in a small quantity of water to his wife. She died in Stanley Hospital. The brother admitted that he meant "bromide," and wrote "bichromide" in mistake. In his evidence Mr. Cook said he asked the husband what the "bichromide" was to be used for, and he replied that he did not know. The husband said the chemist did not inquire. The Coroner thought the chemist should have made more searching inquiry concerning the use of the drug, and the jury, in returning a verdict of death through misadventure, endorsed that view.

**Stealing from a Chemist's Window.**

At Worship Street Police Court on January 29, Joseph Hill (19), was charged with breaking and entering the shop and premises of Mr. Johann Fritz Thiele, chemist and

druggist, Hoxton Street, Hoxton. Prisoner first broke the shop-window, but was evidently disturbed by a constable, who roused Mr. Thiele. Shutters were put up, but prisoner returned, took off the shutters, and attempted to steal from the window. The constable caught prisoner after a chase, and the Magistrate committed him to the sessions for trial.

**Damaging the Chemist's Shop.**

A man named Long was charged at the Jersey Police Court, on January 29, with disturbing the peace and doing damage to the shop of Mr. J. T. Baker, The Waterloo Pharmacy, Halkett Place. Mr. Baker deposed that Long was very drunk and broke articles in the shop-window to the value of 25s. The Magistrate said that accused, not being charged with drunkenness, would be liberated, and complainant must sue for the damage done before a civil court.

**Unscathed.**

On January 20 an egg-shaped show-carboy, which was suspended from the ceiling over the window in the shop of Mr. W. G. Burge, chemist, Shirland Road, Paddington, suddenly left its bearings and crashed through the plate-glass top, smashing glass shelves, bottles of perfume, and other articles in the window. The carboy which weighed, with its contents, between 40 and 50 lbs., fell a distance of about 9 feet, and, but for a few scratches, came out of the ordeal uninjured.

**Sale of Drugs.**

The bankrupt-stock of Mr. Sidney Brown, wholesale perfumer, Kingston-on-Thames, was submitted to public auction on January 29, as the Official Receiver had not accepted an offer to purchase it by tender. The buyers comprised a goodly muster of members of the Hebrew persuasion, chemists being in a considerable minority. One pharmacist lost money by his presence, for he came away *minus* a spade guinea which was hanging as a pendant to his watch-chain. A representative from one of the London drug-store companies was in evidence, and secured some of the bargains, including one of the sporting lots of various essential oils, estimated to cost 16*l.*, for 4*l.* We append a few prices:—

Bale of senna, estimated cost 2*l.* 17*s.*, sold at 20*s.*

129 lbs. powdered rhubarb sold at 40*s.*

50 lbs. cuttle-fish powder, sold at 6*s.*

1 cwt. 1 qr. Powdered arca-nut, 5*s.*

56 lbs. gelatin, 30*s.*

1 cwt. 1 qr. 10 lbs. of rhubarb-root, 2*l.* 4*s.*

168 lbs. borax, 14*s.*

There was a good stock of fancy toilet-bottles, and many lots of these were knocked down at about one-third of the estimated cost-price towards the end of the sale.

**Irish News.**

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

**Personal.**

Mr. J. Fred O'Neill, L.P.S.I., has been elected a member of the Carrick-on-Suir Urban District Council.

**Tipperary Analyst.**

A communication from the Local Government Board to the Tipperary County Council, directing the appointment of a county analyst, was forwarded to the Guardians of the Tipperary Union for consideration. The letter stated that to carry out the provisions of the Food and Drugs Acts, 1875 to 1889, it was necessary to appoint an analyst, and to have samples sent on to him from time to time. The Clerk was directed to reply that the analyst of the Guardians, Sir Charles Cameron, Dublin, was appointed in August last, and when his time expires the Guardians will take steps to appoint an analyst as required by the L.G.B.

**The Dispenser Explains.**

Mr. Lee, dispenser at the Shaldon Dispensary, has explained why the liniment supplied to the man O'Sullivan was not labelled "Poison." It will be remembered that



O'Sullivan poisoned himself by drinking a liniment obtained from the dispensary, and which was not labelled "Poison" (*C. & D.*, December 23, 1899, page 1912). Mr. Lee's letter was before the Guardians of the Cork Union last week. In it he says:—

The liniment was intended for external use, and was labelled by me "Caution—for external use only," and it seems that this poor man did not read the label.

I regret very much that the bottle was not labelled "Poison," though if the patient did not read the "Caution" label, it is not likely that a "Poison" label would have averted the unfortunate result. I was under the impression that the label "Caution—for external use only" might take the place of the label "Poison," being in effect the same thing, and also that the Act of Parliament exempted doctors' prescriptions from the obligation of affixing the word "Poison" in every case. I beg to say that I shall in future be most careful to attach a "Poison" label to all medicines for external use."

A resolution expressing entire satisfaction with the explanation was passed.

#### Green Vitriol for "Pink-eye."

The severe epidemic of "pink-eye" among the horses in Dublin is checked and seems to be abating. The infectious nature of the disease is now recognised, and the owners are taking steps to isolate infected animals. As a prophylactic treatment drachm doses of sulphate of iron mixed with the food, morning and evening, are useful, and chemists who put up tonic condiments for horses should take the opportunity of bringing the powders before horse-owners.

#### Waterford Poisoning-case.

The aforesaid police-court proceedings were resumed on January 24. Dr. Lapper, F.R.C.S., deposed that he had analysed portions of the bodies of both sons of the prisoner, and found in each body more than enough strychnine to account for death. The prisoner Dunphy was returned for trial at the Assizes on a charge of wilful murder.

#### Poor-law Medicines.

Complaint having been made of some medicines supplied to the Lurgan Union, at the last meeting of the Board a letter was read from the L.G.B. for Ireland directing the Guardians to inform the medicine-contractors that if they again supplied inferior drugs their services would be dispensed with; and, further, that the condemned drugs were to be returned and standard medicines purchased.

## Scotch News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

#### A Chemist's Estate.

Mr. William Pool, merchant, Annan, has been appointed judicial factor on the estate of the late James Sanderson Rae, and to be executor in said estate. Mr. Rae carried on the business of chemist, druggist, and aerated-water manufacturer at Fairfield Place, Annan.

#### A Students' Visit.

On January 31 the students of the West of Scotland College of Pharmacy, accompanied by Mr. T. S. Barrie (co-Principal), visited the mills and laboratories of the Glasgow Apothecaries' Company. The party was conducted over the premises by Mr. Bowie, who made appropriate remarks on the various operations going on. Amongst the most noticeable of these were the preparation of cascara extract and chemical food, the distillation of aromatic spirit of ammonia, and the percolation in large metallic cylinders of senega and cascara. In the crushing-departments the mills were reducing to powder various fruits, &c., and linseed. The cause of most comment by the visitors was, however, the pill-making machine, which made many reflect on the hours they had spent pill-cutter in hand. Afterwards the warehouses were visited, where many tons of cascara, sarsaparilla, and other drugs were stored.

## French News.

**A GREEDY SERVANT-GIRL.**—A servant-girl named Louise Brémont, who was in the employ of a Marseilles pharmacist, lost her life recently under peculiar circumstances. She had taken the habit of stealing lozenges from the pharmacy, and one morning happened to take a quantity containing aconite. The girl found them to her liking, and ate so many that she died a few hours later in great pain.

**A FEMALE DISPENSER BURNED TO DEATH.**—A young hospital sister, Mlle. Jeanne Chelat, was occupied in the pharmacy of the St.-Antoine Hospital last Sunday evening in pouring sulphuric ether from one bottle to another; by an awkward movement some of the liquid fell on her dress, setting it in flames through the vapour coming into contact with a light. She was very badly burned, and died an hour afterwards in great pain.

**EXPLOSIVE PHOTOGRAPHY.**—A chemist named M. Paul Leniept was engaged in his laboratory at 64 rue du Faubourg Montmartre, Paris, last Saturday afternoon, in experimenting on a new way of taking photographs at night, when an explosion occurred which mutilated him horribly, and for life. While I was walking down the Faubourg Montmartre that afternoon I heard a terrific explosion. "Hallo! that sounds like an echo of Ladysmith," said a man near me. We looked up, and saw smoke and flames issuing from the paneless windows of a couple of top-storey rooms. Two minutes later a plucky workman, who was doing some repairing in the adjoining house, clambered over the balcony and disappeared in the smoke. He soon returned with a bundle of curtains in his arms. In three minutes more the firemen were on the scene, and they quickly rescued the unfortunate chemist. It seems the latter's ambition was to make a name for himself in photography, and his experiments for nocturnal snapshots were of a very dangerous character, for the force of the explosion hurled him against the wall, blew a door off its hinges, and smashed all the apparatus in the laboratory, besides setting fire to the room. The victim was found covered with blood, and a neighbouring pharmacist gave him every possible "first-aid" assistance. At the Hospital Lariboisière, in addition to serious burns, M. Leniept was found to have his left arm broken in three places, while his abdomen was terribly injured. His arm has been amputated, and his condition is most serious.

**THE POOR-LAW AUTHORITIES** (*Assistance Publique*) of Paris yearly invite tenders for the supply of medicines to the public hospitals and almshouses. The figures for 1900 are interesting as giving some idea of the leading remedies used. Glycerin and flour take the lead; 60 tons of each is asked for. Cod-liver oil figures for 16 tons, castor oil nearly 2 tons, olive oil  $1\frac{1}{4}$  ton, while 40 tons of flowers of sulphur is annually used for baths, &c. The "tisane" is ever popular; 40 tons of liquorice,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  of lime-leaves (*tilleul*),  $3\frac{1}{2}$  tons each of mallow, marsh-mallow, couch-grass,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ton each of gentian and of cherry-stalks are employed for this purpose, as well as 1 cwt. apiece of borage, centaury, and wild pansy. The leading antiseptics are boric acid and carbolic acid (12 tons of the former, 10 of the latter), and corrosive sublimate and bisulphite of soda each figure for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ton, and permanganate of potash for  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton. The use of chloroform increases; over  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ton is asked for, as against  $1\frac{1}{4}$  ton in 1899. Ether remains at 28 cwt.—the same as last year. One may also note 24 lbs. of cocaine and 160 lbs. of ethyl bromide. Among the bromides are  $1\frac{1}{4}$  ton of potassium bromide, 300 lbs. of sodium bromide, 120 lbs. of ammonium bromide, and 20 lbs. of strontium bromide. Medicines vary little in the hospitals, but it is to be remarked that 8 cwt. methyl salicylate is asked for, as against 2 cwt. in 1899; peptone increases from 80 to 100 kilos., pepsin falls from 40 to 10 kilos., and kola from 250 to 200 kilos. Four tons of quinine and 3 of sulphate of magnesia are used annually,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ton of sulphate of soda, and about 1 cwt. of senna-leaves. The yearly consumption of cachets is 800,000. Tea is still considered to some extent a medicine in France, in spite of the rapid growth of "5-o'clock-tea houses" in Paris. A little over 2 tons is consumed annually in the hospitals, as against 16 tons of coffee. If the tea is as bad, and the coffee as good, inside the hospitals as in the average café outside, this difference is hardly to be wondered at.

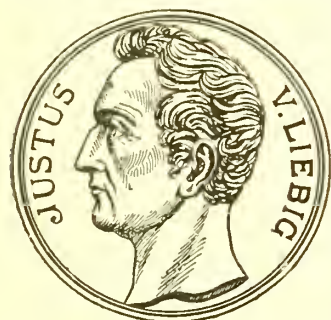
## Colonial and Foreign News.

**THE NEW YORK PHARMACEUTICAL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION** are to ask Governor Roosevelt to appoint a commission to inquire into the character of the various pharmacy laws of the State, and to draft and introduce into the Legislature a uniform law to govern the practice of pharmacy, providing for a single board of pharmacy to have jurisdiction over the whole State.

**THE PROPOSED LAW** regulating the sale of patent medicines in Germany has met with considerable disapproval, and several firms directly and indirectly affected by it, such as manufacturers of paper, cardboard, advertisements, glass, &c., are about to act against it. Also the press considers itself restricted, in spite of the fact that in Germany the public advertising of patent medicines is prohibited. Nevertheless it has been sanctioned by the Federal Council.

**BRAZILIAN TRADE.**—The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of a telegram from H.M. Minister at Rio de Janeiro, reporting that a ministerial circular has suspended until further notice the enforcement of penalties for the non-production of consular invoices in the case of goods shipped to Brazil. [We are curious to know when the Brazilians are to get this matter finished. Since January 1, 1899, we have received and published no fewer than seventeen notes directly and indirectly connected with it. This is a painfully protracted way of doing business.—ED.]

**LIEBIG MEDALS.**—An interesting ceremony took place at Liebig's factory at Fray Bentos recently, when silver medals



were distributed to fifty-nine employés, who had been in the company's service for twenty-five years or over. The medals bear on the one side (as represented in the illustration) a portrait of Justus von Liebig, and on the reverse side the name of the recipient. All the employés were entertained to a rural banquet, and an extra month's pay (amounting to about \$4,000) was distributed

amongst them by order of the board in London, to whom a telegram of thanks was sent. The medals were presented by the manager of the factory, Mr. Otto Gunther, and Mr. Wilhelm Bertram, chairman of the local board, presided.

**GERMAN PROPRIETARIES AND RETAILERS.**—Towards the end of last year, the Union of Pharmaceutical Societies of Saxony sent a circular to pharmaceutical specialties manufacturers, stating that, as most firms allowed a discount which did not even cover the expenses, they requested the manufacturers, in order to avoid explanations with doctors and the public, to arrange their prices so that the apotheker should at least have 37½ per cent., to which he is entitled by law. Should the manufacturers not do so, apothekers would from January 1, 1900 (so the circular threatened), before handing over the counter any speciality on which there was less than 37½ per cent., tear away the cover, all advertisements, and even the part of the label on which the price was printed, and stamp the new one on it. Upon this there immediately appeared in all the pharmaceutical journals of Germany an "appeal" to the manufacturers, urging that preventive measures should be taken to break the monopoly the apothekers have in their hands, by making every effort to obtain the further "surrendering to free traffic" of more medicaments. "The public was not there for the apotheker's benefit alone, and if 30 or 33½ per cent. discount, which was generally allowed (an interest on the capital of 43 or 50 per cent.), was not considered sufficient, the public would judge differently." Such firms who wished to act on the defensive were invited to send in their names. The result is being awaited rather anxiously, as, for some time past, matters have been at "daggers-drawn" stage.

## South African News.

(From our Cape Correspondent.)

**GOOD WISHES FOR KIMBERLEY.**—By this mail we hear from our Cape Town representative that just before the end of last year he endeavoured to get a message through to Kimberley wishing chemists there the compliments of the season, but that owing to the check experienced by Lord Methuen's forces he did not succeed.

**JOHANNESBURG CHEMISTS OPEN.**—Mr. A. V. Browne, the resident director of Messrs. Lennon (Limited) at Cape Town, says that he is not aware that his company in Johannesburg were compelled by the Boers to pay a war-tax of 15% (as reported by our Transvaal correspondent), and the report that Messrs. Lennon had closed their Transvaal branches is also incorrect.

**TRADE IN CAPE TOWN.**—Christmas trade at the Cape exceeded expectations. The "show" and preparations so conspicuous on previous festive occasions, did not reach such an enthusiastic point, but traders must have been pleasantly surprised at the demand for "holiday goods" and other luxuries which go to make Christmas-trade something worth looking forward to. Messrs. Heynes, Mathew & Co., originated the idea of advertising special discounts to those purchasing for Red Cross purposes, the other pharmacies have followed suit. Messrs. Petersens' Adderley Street pharmacy was nicely dressed, but their badly-written showcard offering discounts on goods purchased for the sick and wounded marred what would otherwise have been an excellent effect. Messrs. Lennon (Limited) were handicapped somewhat by the builders who are erecting a balcony round their block of buildings (a very necessary structure, by the way, in South Africa, where goods not so protected soon spoil); at the same time, they had a full range of high-class "holiday adjuncts" on hand, and, from the clearance effected good business must have resulted. The wholesale trade, outside town-limits, is practically at a standstill, the only movement being an occasional call from the Imperial authorities.

## East Indian News.

**CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR WANTED.**—The *Times of India* says that the Presidency College of Bombay has no professor in chemistry, while the other recognised colleges can boast of efficient professors in this science. In 1899 there was not a single student either for the intermediate B.Sc. or for the B.A. voluntary in physics and chemistry, while there are about forty students in voluntary biology. This would appear to be owing to the want of a professor in chemistry.

**ALLEGED THEFT BY AN ASSAY CHEMIST.**—Mr. John Carey, assayer, reduction officer, and cyanide chemist of the Balaghat Mine, Kolar Goldfields, India, has been arrested on charges of receiving 76 chunks of mine gold valued at 4,560r. The allegations are that on December 4 his writing-desk, unlocked, was found on the Coromandel Mine property by two overseers of the latter mine, and they conveyed to the assay office of the Coromandel Mine. During transit a bar of gold fell out from the desk, and this also they took to Mr. Watts, assayer of the Coromandel. The accused happened to be with Mr. Watts at the time, and claimed the box and the gold and took both. He gave one of the overseers 100r. as "hush-money," but inquiries were afterwards made led to his arrest. The case has not yet been heard.

**EARLY-CLOSING IN BERLIN.**—Since the Christmas holidays the chemists in the West district of Berlin, with one exception, have closed their establishments at 9 o'clock on Sundays and holidays. No complaints have been made by the public.

**A MARTYR TO SCIENCE.**—Dr. Kostanecki, of the Cracow Medical Laboratory, died with symptoms resembling those of the bubonic plague, and it has since been reported that he had a culture of the plague without the knowledge of his colleagues.



## Winter Session.

Notices of meetings to be held are inserted under "Coming Events." If meetings are not attended by reporters, secretaries of associations would oblige by communicating with the Editor.

### Liverpool Chemists' Association.

THERE was a good attendance at the Royal Institution, Liverpool, on January 25, the occasion being the annual meeting, over which Mr. Anthony S. Buck presided.

#### MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS.

The usual routine having been despatched, Mr. R. C. COWLEY mentioned that as he had been doing some work of late on ferrous arsenate he should like to ascertain if it were a salt frequently used at the dispensing-counter, and also if it were known why doctors ordered it. Was it that it contained arsenic in a readily assimilable form, or was it for tonic effect due to both the arsenic and ferrous salts? His results were peculiar, and he required the information to enable him to decide the exact direction in which to prosecute his researches.

The general opinion elucidated was that the salt was rarely ordered; and the reason it was prescribed was a medical question upon which the members did not care to express opinions.

Mr. Cowley, it was understood, would continue his work and give the results at a future meeting.

#### ANNUAL REPORTS.

The HON. SECRETARY (Mr. Dutton) then gave a *résumé* of the year's work, from which it appeared that the Association was still pressing forward.

The Treasurer's report, presented by Mr. WELLINGS, was of a satisfactory nature, showing a good balance to the credit of the Association.

Votes of thanks were then given to the retiring President (Mr. Edward Evans, J.P., D.L.), the Secretaries and Treasurer, and the members of the Council, including a special vote to Mr. Prosper H. Marsden, F.C.S., for having taken over the duties of Secretary during the absence of Mr. Wardleworth.

The result of the election which ensued was that Messrs. Bain, Buck, Cowley, Hudson, Marsden, Wardleworth, and Wokes were elected councillors.

Mr. A. S. BUCK (the President) then gave his inaugural address. He first spoke on the question of

#### MEDICAL DISPENSING.

He said that physicians frequently took up dispensing, not from choice, but from necessity. Their patients had not been educated up to paying for advice only, and looked upon the medicine as the tangible result of paying a fee. In some districts, also, the stock in the pharmacies was not sufficient to enable prescriptions to be promptly filled. He knew a case where six shops were visited before a prescription could be dispensed, the particular drug in that case being liq. atropinæ sulph. They should also bear in mind that doctors were encouraged by wholesale houses to dispense, which they could see from advertisements in the medical papers, and that, in club work, if dispensing were done by a chemist, no matter how small the dispensing-fees were, there would be nothing left for the medical man. Mr. Buck thought it was the duty of the chemists to meet medical men in every possible way, and do all in their power to induce them to hand over dispensing to chemists, at the same time guarding against anything of the nature of direct profit to the doctor. By this system a better feeling was engendered between chemists and the medical profession, and in his own pharmacy, working on these lines, he had had no cause to regret it. Chemists should, however, remember that it was a question of give and take, and as the pharmaceutical training does not include those subjects which enable the medical profession to diagnose and prescribe, chemists should, wherever possible, refuse to treat cases and send the applicants to the men who have specially studied those subjects. It was not always possible, he admitted, to send people to medical men, but it was their duty to use their

best persuasive powers to induce a patient to take proper advice. As to the question of qualified dispensers in doctors' dispensaries, he did not think that they could insist upon this. It would doubtless be a very desirable state of affairs, but at the present time there were not enough qualified men for chemists' own requirements. In the case of a dispenser for a doctor's own work, he was inclined to think the Apothecaries' Hall Assistants' certificate met the case.

#### COMPANY-PHARMACY

was a question, Mr. Buck said, which had been discussed and written about for so many years that there was great difficulty in saying anything really new about it. They seemed to agree that the framers of the 1868 Act did not anticipate this evasion of its provisions. The trouble has always been to find a remedy, and his opinion was that it would be impossible to put matters straight until they had an entirely new Pharmacy Act. Mr. Buck then reviewed the origin of the 1868 Pharmacy Act. It was the outcome of a Bill drafted by the General Medical Council in 1863 for the regulation of pharmacy, which provided, among other things, for the appointment of pharmaceutical inspectors and the prohibition of the sale of secret remedies. The Bill was never introduced into Parliament, and although the Pharmaceutical Society approved of its provisions in the main, chemists and druggists were soon up in arms against it, the opposition arising partly from the fact that they objected to be ruled by the Medical Council. The stimulus resulting from this action of their medical friends was not wasted, for between 1863 and 1868 the Society and the Government tried their utmost to obtain legislation. Two Bills were introduced and dropped, and although the Bill which passed as the Pharmacy Act, 1868, was not a Government measure, it was supported by the Government and the medical profession. From the passing of this Pharmacy Act, with the exception of the Amendment Act of 1869, legislation bearing directly upon the Pharmacy Act has not been obtained until the Amending Act of 1898, for consolidating the subscribers of the Pharmaceutical Society, was enacted. The judicial rulings, however, on the Pharmacy Act have been of extreme importance. Mr. Buck then referred to the case of the Pharmaceutical Society v. the London and Provincial Supply Association (Limited), and said that those who advised a fresh test-case should bear in mind the remarks made by Mr. Newton, Judge Russell, Lord Justice Bramwell, Lord Justice Baggallay, Lord Justice Thesiger, and the memorable Selborne judgment in the House of Lords during the trial of this action. In these remarks they had a large proportion of her Majesty's Judges giving reasons against the Pharmacy Act as it now stood, much on the same lines as those suggested by the present Lord Chancellor in his Companies Bill. Bearing in mind, also, the dictum that the Judges are bound to interpret Acts of Parliament according to their intent and meaning, they might safely come to the conclusion that the Act was thoroughly bad, and that if they took the advice of those gentlemen who were anxious to have a case on the lines of the 1880 action they had very little chance of success. Mr. Buck then referred to the evil of branch-shops, a weakness which struck at the very root of pharmaceutical legislation. If branch-shops opened by their own loyal friends had not been introduced, companies would not have flourished. Further, they might see the difference between a branch-shop managed by a qualified man and owned by a qualified pharmacist and one under a qualified manager owned by a body of shareholders; but he did not think the Legislature and the public could be got to see it in the same light. It was only lack of capital or of friends willing to advance the necessary capital that prevented both managers from settling up in business for themselves. He would much like to see the Pharmacy Act kept up to what its designers intended in regard to company-trading; but having regard to the own actions, and the fact that companies had been allowed to flourish for twenty-five years, he did not see how they could hope to gain the ends some of their friends were asking for. The widows' clause was the base upon which company-pharmacy had been founded, and it would be necessary to get this clause removed before they could hope for any beneficial enactments in the future.

Mr. Buck said he had no faith in a qualified directorate; the directors could easily be obtained from the managers if



the larger companies, and there was nothing which prevented a man being a director of as many companies as cared to have him.

#### P.A.T.A.

Mr. Buck then referred to this Association, which was, he said, a very valuable union of chemists, formed to fulfil certain duties which did not fall either to the Pharmaceutical Society, the Conference, or the Federation. The duties were connected with the financial side of their work, and were very necessary in the interests of some of their members whose businesses were made up largely of the sale of so-called patent medicines. He should be glad to see every member of the trade in the city of Liverpool join the ranks of that Association.

#### SECRET COMMISSIONS.

In regard to the Lord Chief Justice's remarks before the London Chamber of Commerce, in which his Lordship said it was intolerable and disgusting that a medical practitioner should have an understanding with a chemist and an arrangement for receiving a share of the profits, Mr. Buck remarked that, in his own experience of twenty-five years, he had never known a case in which commissions had been asked or were expected.

#### STAMPING PRESCRIPTIONS.

Mr. Buck then went on to advocate that prescriptions should be stamped on the back. It was the practice in his own pharmacy, and he thought their medical friends appreciated it in preference to stamping prescriptions on the front.

The closing part of the address advocated informal meetings of chemists.

The address was followed by a vote of thanks and a short discussion, during which Mr. SMITH laid great stress on the unwisdom of giving any recognition whatsoever to other certificates of dispensing ability than those of the Pharmaceutical Societies of Great Britain and of Ireland in their respective countries.

### Chemists' Assistants' Association.

THE usual weekly meeting, held at 73 Newman Street on Thursday, January 25 (the President, Mr. W. Gamble, in the chair), was both interesting and instructive.

#### IMPROMPTU DISCUSSION

was the order of the evening, and the usual method was adopted of sending round slips of paper on each of which a question is written. Preliminaries over, Mr. C. J. Strother was first called upon to give his opinion as to "whether he thought it advisable that the veil of anonymity covering the pharmaceutical press should be raised, and that 'Ordinary Pharmacist' and 'Xrayser' should disclose their patronymics?" Mr. STROTHER was of opinion that under certain circumstances it was advisable for a man to veil his name, but if a man wrote anything worth reading he thought his name should be at the foot of it, as the ability of such a man was worth the acknowledgment of his brother pharmacists.

Mr. GAMBLE referred to the remarks of Mr. Lord Gifford, who had said he thought it quite time that these two gentlemen came out and showed who they were. He (Mr. Gamble) did not think much of that argument. There was a good deal to be said for the man who wrote anonymously, as his personal influence then carried no weight at all in the arguments he advanced, and the arguments relied entirely upon themselves for their success.

Mr. HYMANS was of the same opinion as the President: personal letters of course should be signed, but for articles dealing with general subjects he thought anonymity was much better.

#### MEDICINE-CHESTS FOR THE CAPE.

Mr. MORLEY was then asked to say what were "the best six remedies for the South African warrior to take to the front." He gave his opinion in favour of permanganate of potash, quinine, opium, and an aperient.

Mr. STROTHER said Epsom salts, opium, quinine, permanganate of potash, chlorodyne, and whisky. (Laughter.)

Mr. HYMANS and Mr. JAMES added to the discussion, the

latter also suggesting antipyrin or some other anti-migraine remedy.

Mr. GAMBLE said he had had some experience during the past few weeks in fitting up medicine-cases for South Africa, and found that very few of those going out took more than six drugs, and in these pills or tablets were given preference. He advocated quinine, Dover's powder, an aperient pill, permanganate-of-potash tablets (2-gr.), phenacetin, or antipyrin. Men troubled with the liver would take some mercurial preparation. West-end chemists found that not only the man going out, but very often medical men themselves left it almost entirely to the chemist to suggest the nature and form of the medicaments to be taken. (Hear, hear.)

#### NIGHT CALLS.

Mr. MORLEY TAYLOR, in reply to the question, "Should a special dispensing-charge be made for night-calls?" thought discretion should be used in the matter—that regular customers should not be charged. On the other hand, in the case of individuals who were making convenience of the chemist, an extra charge was quite justified.

Mr. LATREILLE and Mr. JAMES also advocated this view.

#### COMPANY-PHARMACY.

Mr. DEWHURST had the question, "Is Mr. Glyn-Jones's company-pharmacy proposal acceptable to chemists?" but he confessed himself absolutely unable to answer it. He had not the faintest idea what Mr. Glyn-Jones's proposal was.

Mr. MORLEY thereupon confessed that he had put the question, having only a remote idea, also, of what the proposal was.

Then Mr. GAMBLE explained, and reproved the meeting by saying that, considering this subject was supposed to touch trade in its very vitals, he was extremely surprised that any of their members should be (or even own themselves to be) so ignorant of the subject.

Mr. JAMES thought they had had the company-question almost *ad nauseam*, and did not think they would be much better off with a qualified directorate. Qualified directors could easily be obtained, and, if they got troublesome, they could easily be got rid of. He did not think they would get any pharmacy-legislation for a very long time, and perhaps the knowledge of this fact accounted for the general apathy exhibited by chemists on the subject.

Mr. MORLEY TAYLOR also thought they would have to wait a long time before they could get anything definite; and

Mr. DEWHURST interpolated the remark that it was rather *infra dig.* to get the trade bolstered up by legislation. Chemists should stand or fall on their qualifications.

Mr. JAMES wound up by saying that he had the opportunity of speaking to a member of Parliament the other day on the subject, who said he sympathised very much with chemists in their agitation for legislation, but he was of opinion that they would never get the House of Commons to give them what they wanted. The House looked on matters of that kind on much broader lines, and they would never get anything.

#### FOR IMPROVING THE C.A.A.

Mr. HYMANS rose to answer the plea for "a suggestion that would improve the usefulness of the C.A.A." He thought the Association, as far as the management was concerned, did everything it possibly could, and that if it only obtained hearty and enthusiastic support of its members it would be very successful indeed. Good papers, coffee, and other things were provided, and yet they could not get assistants to come.

Mr. STROTHER spoke in the same strain, and suggested the resuscitation of a Reception Committee. It had proved successful in former years, and he thought it might do so again.

Messrs. DEWHURST and JAMES also supported this idea.

#### EXAMINATIONS.

Mr. LATREILLE's question was "Should University professors be allowed to examine candidates for Minor and Major examinations?" Personally, he thought that they should.

Mr. FOTHERGILL agreed. At the same time, he referred

to the opinion that Mr. Glyn-Jones expressed the previous week, that the examinations should be carried out by pharmacists.

Mr. HYMANS followed in the same line, and drew attention to the fact that, in the Conjoint Board examination, the examiner in chemistry was not a specialist in medicine, but a chemist. The advantage he possessed was that he was capable of drawing out a candidate on the special subject, and seeing at once what his knowledge on the subject was.

Mr. MORLEY TAYLOR also expressed himself as strongly in favour of professorial examiners and

Mr. GAMBLE thought it ridiculous that pharmaceutical chemists should take up all the work in regard to the examinations.

#### VOLUNTEER-COMPOUNDERS.

Mr. JAMES had to reply to the question, "What is your opinion of the terms offered by the military authorities to the compounders who recently volunteered for active service?" and said he thought that the War Office must have rather a curious idea of the social standing of the pharmacists. It was distinctly an instance of War Office incompetency.

Mr. MORLEY TAYLOR thought that the War Office people had made a mess of the whole business. Their announcement was a most ridiculous one; they insulted pharmacy by the way in which they applied for compounders, by saying they must either be qualified by examination or qualified by experience. Pharmacists had been treated abominably, and of course it rested entirely with them as to whether the matter in its present condition should be allowed to continue or not.

MESSES. STROTHER, GAMBLE, and LATREILLE also joined in the discussion.

#### THE MINOR.

Mr. GAMBLE's question turned out to be, "Are you in favour of a division of the Minor examination?" and he answered it at once in the affirmative. He did not think that anyone in the room would be against the division of the examination, but that it would be a good thing for pharmacy generally.

Mr. DEWHURST thought it was a mistake to divide the examination. It allowed men of smaller ability to enter the ranks. It seemed to him that the examination should be made more difficult; in fact, so hard that fewer men could get into pharmacy than at present. There should be fewer of them: the ranks of pharmacy were too full, and to divide the examination he thought would be fatal.

Mr. MORLEY TAYLOR said that if they got the curriculum, the best way would be to have the scientific part of the examination partitioned off, and passed at some definite period before the practical part; but until they obtained the curriculum he thought the advantage rested with the present system.

Mr. GAMBLE pointed out that, as to the ranks of pharmacy being too full, as asserted by Mr. Dewhurst, there was a considerable dearth of qualified assistants at the present time.

The meeting shortly afterwards adjourned.

#### Midland Pharmaceutical Association.

A MEETING was held at Mason College, Birmingham, on January 25, Mr. Jeffrey Poole (the President) in the chair. A paper by Mr. J. Spilsbury, F.I.C., F.C.S., and Mr. T. G. Joyce, B.Sc., A.I.C., was read on

#### BALSAM OF TOLU.

Mr. JOYCE, who introduced the subject, said it had occurred to them that whilst the quantitative process given in the B.P. distinguished between a spurious and a genuine sample, it was inadequate for determining an exhausted or a mixture of an exhausted and a genuine one. Having reviewed previous work on the subject, and predicated that balsam contains cinnamic and benzoic acids, benzyl cinnamate and benzoate, toluene, and resins, the authors specially referred to Mr. J. O. Braithwaite's suggestion to express the amount of potassium hydrate consumed by the residue soluble in carbon bisulphide as parts per thousand of the residue, and pointed out that it would be better to calculate the amount of potassium hydrate consumed into its equivalent

of cinnamic acid, and record it in parts per hundred of the balsam.

Five samples of balsam were submitted to analysis employing the Pharmacopœia process, with the precaution to evaporate the carbon bisulphide as far as possible by exposure to the air, and finally in an oven not exceeding 100° F., till the weight of the residue was constant. Complete drying was done for the sake of comparison with Mr. Braithwaite's figures, but if the authors' suggestions were adopted absolute drying would be unnecessary.

No. 1 sample was balsam from which syrup had been manufactured; the others were represented as genuine balsams. The following were the results obtained:—

| No. | Percentage of Cinnamic Acid in the Balsam | Percentage of Balsam Soluble in CS <sub>2</sub> | Character of Residue Soluble in CS <sub>2</sub> | Saponification-number of CS <sub>2</sub> Residue | Percentage Ash from Balsam |
|-----|---|---|---|--|----------------------------|
| 1   | 11.5                                      | 12.28   | crystalline                                     | 357.2  | 0.27                       |
| 2   | 20.2                                      | 26.95   | crystalline                                     | 282.5  | 0.33                       |
| 3   | 20.8                                      | 27.32   | crystalline                                     | 286.9  | 0.32                       |
| 4   | 20.2                                      | 23.88   | crystalline                                     | 318.8  | 0.30                       |
| 5   | —   | 47.12   | { transparent and resinous }                    | 266.2  | 0.57                       |

The saponification-number represents the parts of potassium hydrate consumed by 1,000 parts of the residue soluble in carbon bisulphide. In the case of No. 5 the character of the residue soluble in carbon bisulphide indicated a spurious balsam, the amount of resin present rendering the saponification-number useless for calculating the equivalent of total acid.

Nos. 2, 3, and 4 were considered to be genuine specimens each possessing good aroma and characteristic taste, and Nos. 2 and 3 were proved of excellent quality, judging from the preparations manufactured from them. Mr. Braithwaite considers that the saponification-number in the case of a balsam of good quality should not fall below 300. The equivalent percentage amounts of cinnamic acid calculated from the saponification-numbers of his genuine samples range from 16.5, 18.0, 18.3, 23.0, 26.0, to 29.0 per cent, whilst the authors of this paper show that, although the saponification-numbers of two of their genuine samples are below 300, the samples yield respectively 20.2, 20.2, and 20.8 per cent. of cinnamic acid. Again, the saponification-number of their No. 1 sample of exhausted balsam (357) compares very closely with one of Mr. Braithwaite's genuine samples, the saponification-number of which is 352.7, so that the sample would agree with the Pharmacopœia requirement, although it was "exhausted."

It is essential that the residue soluble in carbon bisulphide should be only slightly coloured and distinctly crystalline; otherwise, if more than mere traces of resin be present, it renders the saponification-number unreliable for calculating the equivalent of cinnamic acid.

The percentages of ash were deemed of comparative little importance. As expected, that from No. 1 sample was the lowest, whilst those from the three genuine specimens were uniform in amount. The microscopic examination of the samples gave the following classification:—No. 1 exhibited the largest number of crystals, then followed Nos. 2, 3, 5, and No. 1 showed the lowest number.

The authors also referred to another process they had under consideration, which, however, was not sufficiently perfected for further detail.

At the conclusion of the paper, Mr. SPILSBURY expressed the opinion that the data so far at their disposal were hardly sufficient to enable them to definitely suggest a standard yield of cinnamic acid, but so far the results pointed to 1 per cent. as being the lowest requirement for a balsam of satisfactory quality.

#### THE DISCUSSION.

Mr. JOHN F. BRYANT asked the authors whether they found benzoic acid in the carbon-bisulphide residue, and also whether they had determined the volatility of cinnamic acid; for in experiments which had to be conducted in



accordance with the official requirements, if care were not used some cinnamic acid would be lost. He mentioned that some authorities calculated the amount of acid obtained in terms of cinnamein; one authority said that it contained from 50 per cent. to 70 per cent. when calculated thus.

Mr. S. H. SHORTHOUSE inquired as to the origin of the samples shown, especially with regard to their age. Recently he had found that none came up to the standard of a sample which he had had in his possession for twenty years. He had obtained samples from all ordinary sources, and found that they varied very considerably indeed—so much so as to suggest that their origin could not be one and the same plant. He referred to a case of his own, in which the bisulphide method yielded a non-crystalline product, but which after a long time became a mass of crystals.

Mr. F. H. ALCOCK said the authors had made no reference to physical tests, which the ordinary pharmacist would no doubt first apply. Examination by taste and smell, as by warming in a test-tube with water, could be adopted by all pharmacists, and was sometimes of great value. He showed a sample which had come into his hands within the last few days which had a feeble odour of tolu, but when warmed with water in a test-tube emitted a decided terebinthinous odour, and when the aqueous solution was allowed to cool it scarcely yielded any crystals of cinnamic acid. He referred to the figures given by Squire, which seemed to show that the physical test might be of service in differentiating certain resins. It had been stated that the carbon bisulphide residue contained cinnamic acid, and apparently the authors thought so; but he suggested it contained other substances which would affect the saponification equivalent and render that test of doubtful value.

Mr. SPILSBURY, in reply, said he did not think that the percentage of benzoic acid in balsam of tolu was more than 1 to 1½. It was a matter of great difficulty to separate benzoic and cinnamic acids for quantitative purposes. His specimens were not more than two or three years old, and they had been bought from good-class houses and brokers. He was not able to say what the diluent was in the specimens that he had examined, and no author, so far as he was able to find, had fixed upon what it was.\* It would be a matter of great difficulty, he thought, to differentiate by chemical tests the various resins that might be put in balsam of tolu, but of this he was quite sure—that balsam was exhausted and subsequently mixed with genuine material and put on the market again, and that in London.

#### CRYSTALLISED GLYCERIN.

The PRESIDENT called attention to a fine sample of crystalline glycerin, for which they were indebted to Mr. Alcock.

Mr. ALCOCK said he observed from THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of the previous week that good samples of crystalline glycerin were obtainable. He communicated with Messrs. Allison, Johnson & Foster (Limited), of Hull, who had kindly sent him for the inspection of members of the Association a large sample of this unusual commercial article.

#### Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association.

A MEETING of the Association was held at 36 York Place, Edinburgh, on January 24. Mr. Fraser McDiarmid (President) in the chair.

The Pottage Herbarium prize of 2*l.* 2*s.* was presented to Mr. R. H. Martin, 21 Duke Street, who had sent in a large and well-mounted collection of plants which were exhibited at the meeting.

Mr. D. B. KIDD then read a series of

#### DISPENSING NOTES.

The first note was on an incompatible strontium-bromide mixture. The prescription was—

|                  |     |     |     |      |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Strontii bromidi | ... | ... | ... | 5ij. |
| Sodii bicarb.    | ... | ... | ... | 3ij. |
| Aquam ad         | ... | ... | ... | 5vj. |

\* In commercial circles it is supposed that balsam of tolu is adulterated occasionally in the United States with balsam of fir.—Ed.

When the two salts are dissolved together in water a reaction takes place, with evolution of carbon dioxide and precipitation of a white powder. The following equation explains what happens:—



The best plan is to shake the mixture till nearly all the carbon dioxide has passed off, and label "Shake the bottle."

#### HYDROCHLORIC SOLUTION OF ARSENIC AND TINCTURE OF NUX VOMICA.

The following mixture gives an immediate precipitate, which is apparently inert resinous matter from the nux vomica seeds. The 1885 tincture gives a perfectly clear mixture:—

|                           |     |     |      |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| Liq. arsenici hydrochlor. | ... | ... | 5ij. |
| Tr. nucis vom.            | ... | ... | 3ij. |
| Aquam ad                  | ... | ... | 5vj. |

A clear mixture may be made by mixing the solution and tincture with 2 oz. of water, filtering, and washing the filter with the remaining 1 oz. of water, but three filtrations were found necessary before the mixture passed clear. The prescriber might also order an equivalent quantity of liquor strychninæ hydrochloridi if he wished the mixture to be clear. The relative strength of the liquor and the tincture in strychnine is very nearly as 1 to 3.

#### PHENAZONE AND SODIUM NITRITE.

The incompatibility of phenazone with spiritus ætheris nitrosi is well known. The following prescription is an instance of incompatibility due to a similar cause:—

|                   |     |     |     |          |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Phenazoni         | ... | ... | ... | gr. v.   |
| Caffeinæ citratis | ... | ... | ... | gr. v.   |
| Sodii nitriti     | ... | ... | ... | gr. iss. |

Ft. pulv. Mitte tales vj.

Caffeine citrate is an unstable salt, and in presence of water readily dissociates into caffeine and free citric acid. In the above powders the moisture present is sufficient to set citric acid free, which reacts with the sodium nitrate, forming sodium citrate and free nitrous acid. The latter oxidises the phenazone, and the powder becomes green and eventually red, from formation of isonitrosophenazone. This substance is said to be non-poisonous, but its formation leads to loss of nitrous acid—an important constituent—and is otherwise to be avoided if possible. In a solution it has been found that an excess of sodium carbonate prevents decomposition in mixtures of phenazone and spiritus ætheris nitrosi. It also does so for a considerable time, but not completely, when the above powders are made into a solution. But it does not prevent the reaction taking place when the substances are in powder. The powders keep perfectly if an equivalent quantity of caffeine alkaloid (2½ gr.) be used in place of the citrate of caffeine. It was incidentally discovered that powders made with free alkaloid, in place of citrate, become coloured green, and then red, when parchment-paper was used, whereas if dispensed in ordinary powder-paper they remained white and the paper was not stained. On examination this was found to be due to a small percentage of free sulphuric acid in the parchment-paper, resulting, doubtless, from the process of manufacture. This is a point worth noting by dispensers.

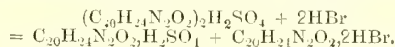
#### QUININE AND AMMONIUM ACETATE.

The following is an example of mixtures which frequently cause trouble to dispensers:—

|                        |     |     |     |        |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Quin. sulph.           | ... | ... | ... | gr. 40 |
| Acid. hydrobrom. dil.  | ... | ... | ... | 5ij.   |
| Liq. ammon. acetat. ad | ... | ... | ... | 3iv.   |

M.

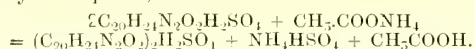
When the dilute acid is added to the sulphate of quinine the soluble acid sulphate and hydrobromide are produced—



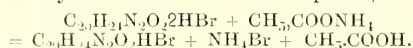
There is still excess (about 8 gr.) of HBr, and the quinine salts do not entirely dissolve in this acid medium. A few drops of water makes a clear solution.

When the ammonium-acetate solution is added the solu

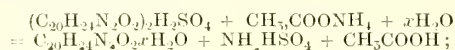
tion is at first clear, but double decomposition almost immediately takes place; thus:—



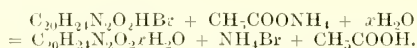
The acid hydrobromide is also decomposed; thus:—



The acid quinine salts are reduced to the neutral salts with liberation of free acetic acid. That is why the precipitate which first begins to form is in acicular crystals and insoluble in ether. But in a few minutes a very bulky white amorphous precipitate begins to form, and the mixture becomes solid in a very short time. This precipitate is very like quinine hydrate in appearance, and it dissolves in ether when shaken up with it. It seems to be due to the further reaction—



and also—



The free acetic acid is too feeble to prevent precipitation of quinine hydrate when there is a large excess of ammonium acetate or any alkaline acetate in the solution. The ammonium ions dilute the acetic ions so as to render their acetic properties ineffective. When there is a sufficient excess of acetic acid a perfectly clear mixture may be easily made. In this instance a clear mixture was obtained by adding 5ij. of glacial acetic acid. The dose of the mixture is one teaspoonful, and that would be equivalent to 98 minims of official dilute acetic acid. That is within the official dose (3ij.), but might be considered too much by the prescriber. The only other alternative is to prescribe the quinine and ammonium acetate in separate mixtures and order a teaspoonful of each to be taken.

#### DISCUSSION.

Mr. HILL said the last mixture seemed analogous, assuming that the equations were correct, to a case instanced by Professor Crum Brown, in which sulphuretted hydrogen, when passed through a solution of ferrous acetate acidified with acetic acid, gave no precipitate. On adding a solution of potassium acetate even distinctly acid from free acetic acid, and then passing sulphuretted hydrogen, there was an immediate precipitation of ferrous sulphide. This was explained on a similar theory that the potassium ions diluted the acetic ions in the solution, and rendered their acidic properties non-effective.

Mr. COWIE was inclined to think the precipitate was acetate of quinine. He had examined a similar precipitate in a mixture of quinine sulphate and liquor ferri acetatis, and the precipitate contained a considerable quantity of acetic acid. Acetate of quinine was only slightly soluble in water, about 1 in 600. It was almost as insoluble as the hydrate, which dissolved 1 in 650. The solubility of the precipitate in ether was not conclusive, because acetic acid was a weak acid, and the salt might be easily split up.

Mr. HARLEY said the addition of glycerin to the nuxvomica mixture might prevent separation of the fatty or resinous matter. He had frequently observed in making the new tincture from fluid extract that it differed very much in clearness even when made, and sometimes on standing it became cloudy.

Mr. MCBAIN said he had dispensed a powder containing phenazone, caffeine citrate, and sodium bromide, and he observed they became yellow, probably from a decomposition due to the citric acid, as in the case Mr. Kidd had given.

Mr. RUTHERFORD HILL then gave a demonstration on

#### BOTANY IN JANUARY.

There were three ways, he said, in which students in Edinburgh could study botany practically at this season of the year. They might pay a visit to one of the many nursery gardens within the city, where they would see many things, and for a few pence could take home much useful material for practical study. They might visit the florists' shops, which always furnished at a moderate cost living

plants; or they could do as he did—take a run out to one of the many spots in the near vicinity, like Colinton Dell, and have a look round. His excursion occupied only about two-and-a-half hours, and he returned with nearly forty plants, and could have easily had more in the time. The season had been unusually mild, and with a heavy rainfall. The consequence was that winter wheat was unusually advanced, and the fields showed an abundance of new grass. Among plants gathered were *Geranium Robertianum*, *Lamium album*, *Stellaria media*, *Senecio vulgaris*, *Epilobium montanum*, *Taraxacum officinale*, *Geum urbanum*, *G. rivale*, *Lychnis dioica*, *Mercurialis perennis*, *Valeriana pyrenaica*, *Stachys europaea*, *Scrophularia nodosa*, *Urtica dioica*, *Crataegus Oxyacantha*, *Ulmus campestris*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Hedera Helix*, *Bellis perennis*, *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Hieracium sphondylium*, *Prunus Padus*, *Cytisus Scoparius*, *Rubus fruticosus*, *Taxus baccata fastigiata*, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Tubercularia vulgaris*, *Buxus sempervirens*, *Galanthus nivalis*, *Fumaria hygrometrica*, *Minium cuspidatum*, *Hypericum perforatum*, *H. quadrangulare*, and *Ulex europaea*.

#### Dublin Chemists' Federation.

A GENERAL meeting of this Federation was held at 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin, on January 26. Dr. Walsh occupied the chair.

There was a fair attendance of supporters, although at the outset of the proceedings the CHAIRMAN pointed out that the attendance was far from satisfactory, and that the chemists of Dublin would be working for their own interests by more heartily supporting the Federation.

Several important matters were brought before the meeting, amongst others the defence and insurance scheme of the P.A.T.A., and it was the unanimous opinion of those present that the scheme was worthy of all support.

Dr. MCWALTER called attention to the correspondence which recently appeared in the *Medical Press*, in which it was alleged by that paper that pharmacists could not be trusted to compound prescriptions with minute doses of potent drugs, and that, consequently, medical men had to rely on the factory-made article in the shape of tablets and pills. A resolution was carried to the effect that such prescriptions were the daily work of ordinary pharmacists, and that the medical profession might rely on far more accuracy in the home-made article than when compounded in wholesale quantities.

Several cases of cutting protected articles under minimum prices were brought before the meeting.

The former office-bearers were re-elected, and Mr. F. J. Jackson and Dr. McWalter were added to the committee. Mr. W. V. Johnston was also elected a member of the Federation.

#### A New Association.

THE chemists of Wolverhampton and district met on January 29 and formed the "Wolverhampton and District Chemists' Association," the following gentlemen being elected officers:—President, Mr. F. J. Gibson; Vice-President, Mr. S. Philips; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. Cullwick; Hon. Secretary Mr. J. H. Coleman; Members of Committee, Messrs. Hall, Towler, and Walker.

#### Bradford Chemists' Association.

AT a meeting of this Association, held on January 30, Mr. H. G. Rogerson in the chair. Mr. J. W. WADDINGTON read a paper on "How Far is Substitution Justifiable?" Mr. Waddington referred particularly to proprietary articles. He recalled certain facts in respect to the origin of medicine, mentioning that in the first instance medical treatment was empirical, but as the practice of medicine advanced empiricism still remained, and its votaries became known as quacks. From this latter group he argued that patent and quack medicines originated, and the Government found it necessary to impose a duty upon medicines sold as nostrums. Mr. Waddington next referred to the influence of the Pharmacy Acts upon the sale of such commodities, especially those containing poisons, and pointed out that registered



chemists had greatly assisted the sale of nostrums by becoming the tools of advertisers in handing over their goods; also maintaining that in the changed condition of things, when the personal relations between customers and chemists are more intimate and the knowledge of the chemist is extended, it is but to be expected that he will exercise that knowledge and recommend articles of which they know the composition in preference to those of which they know nothing but what the manufacturers state about them. He referred to the prescription of proprietary articles by physicians, the following being the more cogent of his remarks upon the subject:—

The number of prescriptions now written containing proprietary articles is tremendous, and most trying to the dispensing chemist. When will the doctor learn that, in supporting these people, he is taking away his own and his chemist's livelihood? I have heard of a consultant being called in in a serious case, and for his 5*l.* 5*s.* he prescribed a proprietary medicine. The patients soon learn what is being given, and are sharp enough to know when they can do without a doctor's advice, and get for a few coppers what the doctor has got a guinea for. I am firmly convinced that the time has come when we must set our faces against these things. We are educated men, and must let the fact be known. It is at our own price the public value our services. Discard the use of all showcards, billheads, memoranda, &c., carrying advertisements of these specialities, and spend a few shillings in printing your own. Make your business an individual one, and the question of substitution will soon right itself.

Mr. Waddington then referred in critical tone to the P.A.T.A., contending that it had not justified its existence, and concluded these remarks with the following summary:—

(1) Sell proprietaries at store-prices but not below cost, (2) keep them in the background, (3) let your customer know you have them, (4) then try substitution, (5) maintain your standing as chemists and not storekeepers, (6) discard all gratuitous bills and stationery and proprietary-article show-cards, (7) use your own, (8) influence the medical men as much as you possibly can.

As a remedy for the trouble, so far as the drug-trade is concerned, Mr. Waddington suggested that the Government, being in need of taxation, should increase not only the *ad valorem* stamp-duty on proprietary medicines, but the amount of the annual licence, fixing it at such a figure that it would not pay the small grocer to enter on an infringement of the legitimate business of the qualified chemist.

After a short discussion the PRESIDENT expressed the thanks of the meeting to Mr. Waddington for his paper.

### Burnley and District Chemists' Association.

A GENERAL meeting of this Association was held on January 30, Mr. J. A. Heaton (the President) in the chair. Mr. COATES read a paper entitled

#### TEST YOUR DRUGS,

in which he pointed out that the greatest mistake a chemist could make was to supply cheap articles without consideration as to quality. He mentioned a number of the adulterations and impurities in drugs he had met with during recent years. A good many chemists, he said, were content to leave the responsibility for the purity of their drugs to the wholesale houses who supplied them, or, if made by themselves, they trusted to perfect accuracy in manufacturing them. But, however pure and up to the standard they might be at first, time eventually worked wonders, and when a prosecution ensued, the only plea that could be put in was that it had been a long time in stock. It was astonishing, when a man accustomed himself to periodical examinations of his stock, how easy it was to detect deterioration and adulteration. A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Coates for his much-appreciated paper.

### Glasgow Chemists' and Druggists' Assistants' and Apprentices' Association.

At the meeting of this Association, held on January 26, a paper by Mr. J. P. Taylor on

#### THE DRUGGIST AS A CIVIL SERVANT

was read. It dealt especially with the baneful effects of competition on pharmacy as an art, showing (1) that it is true in this case as in others that competition in price leads to deterioration in quality, and (2) that the conditions

of labour in pharmacy are such as to abort intellectual progress. To remedy these evils he advocated the assurance to the chemist of a good income by making him a Civil Servant, the Government taking complete charge of pharmacy and its examinations. The following is the part of Mr. Taylor's dream referring to this:—

Having gained the requisite number of marks for an appointment, the candidate would be passed into the Government dispensaries, there to be trained in the practical work of his profession. Having been thus initiated, he would then be passed on to a Government School of Pharmacy, and in due course would present himself for examination as an assistant. He would receive the first vacant appointment, and would either content himself as an assistant for the remainder of his life or he would immediately set about preparing himself for the higher position of master or manager. There could only be a limited number of such appointments, so the examinations would require to be very searching and the percentage of marks necessary for a pass would be somewhat high. This, however, would only stimulate to greater exertions those possessed of the ambition and ability to better their positions, and they would have—what few of us have—the certainty of a secure position, with a safe, and probably a satisfactory, income, without the necessity of slowly and laboriously building up a business.

The rest of the paper indicated that Glasgow's progressiveness in municipalisation of occupations had engendered the dream. A discussion followed the paper. "It is a beautiful idea, but we shall never live to see it," was the burden of the speeches.

### Public and Poor-law Dispensers' Association.

THIS Association met on January 31 at St. Bride's Institute, Ludgate Circus, E.C., the President (Mr. F. N. Clark) in the chair. There was a good attendance of members, and the first business done was the election of Mr. Jones (Poplar) to be the first honorary member of the Association, in recognition of his services to the Association since its inception.

The CHAIRMAN then gave his

#### INAUGURAL ADDRESS,

which reviewed the successes of the Association during the past year. The maxim of co-operation—"Each for all and all for each"—had been well carried out by the Association, and benefit resulted especially to those dispensers who have held aloof from our movement, but who are now, thanks to the Association, obtaining better terms of remuneration. In spite of their success he still thought public dispensers were not yet sufficiently self-assertive concerning their duties and abilities. There was still, he said, a large amount of ignorance amongst "the powers that be" respecting the nature of the duties and responsibilities of dispensers, due principally to the innate modesty of the dispensers themselves. He urged that they educate their boards, managers, or committees in order to command their respect, and render themselves in a manner indispensable. There was no reason why there should not be reciprocation and marked confidence between the medical staff and the pharmacist. The opinion of the latter was often of great value to the prescriber. Of the truth of this they had all had experience. Questions of incompatibility, ingredients or solvents suggested, and even doses corrected, have been numerous. Some of them had included in their duties the analysis of articles of food, water, urine, &c., the preparation of microscopic sections, photography, and other work of a technical and scientific nature. Such work, in his opinion, should be remunerated over and above the regular salary, unless stipulation to the contrary had been made.

In the discussion which followed,

Mr. FORSTER thought that by doing special work a dispenser often gained the confidence of his medical staff. He then brought under the consideration of the meeting one or two dispensing items he had come across in practice. One was the uncertain action of *tr. strophanthi*, and the other the toxic results obtained by the administration of  $\frac{1}{4}$ -gr. doses of *ext. stramonii*. He thought both of these drugs ought to be standardised. He was at present trying a *tr. strophanthi* made from selected seeds, and hoped to obtain better results.

Several members recorded experiences of the uncertain action of *tr. strophanthi*, and after an interesting informal discussion the meeting adjourned.

## War Notes.

### CABLEGRAM FROM THE CAPE.

Capetown, January 24, 10.35 P.M.:—I have just received advice *via* Delagoa Bay from Bloemfontein. The druggists there are all right. Mr. Bryant, manager of Lennon's drug-store in the town, has been enrolled as a member of the Boer Ambulance, and is doing good work. I believe he was compelled to this. Mr. Alfred Elliott, manager of Messrs. Heynes, Mathew & Co.'s branch, has been appointed American Consul in Bloemfontein, and will also look after British interests. The other drug-stores in Bloemfontein are in the hands of Germans, and are trading as usual.

MR. HALL EDWARDS, of Birmingham, is going out to the seat of war as an *x-ray* expert.

H.M.S. "FEARLESS" has placed the sailing-ship *Maria L.* riding at anchor at East London, under arrest. She has a cargo of sulphur on board, and arrived on January 6 from Argentina.

DISPENSERS AT THE FRONT.—Mr. Samuel R. Davidson, chemist and druggist, formerly of Cullen, Banffshire, and later with Messrs. Cooper, Oxford Street, London, has been appointed head dispenser by the Imperial authorities of the De Aar Base Hospital. Mr. Davidson had latterly been manager of Messrs. Jolly & Adcock's branch pharmacy at Johannesburg. While in London he was a member of the London Scottish Volunteers.

WAR GIFTS.—The Liverpool Lin Co. company's offer to supply lint bandages, and other surgical dressings to the Imperial Yeomanry Hospital has been accepted by the committee.—Messrs. Cnixon, Gerrard & Co., Oldbury, have supplied the Imperial Yeomanry with field-dressings, and also presented a quantity of antiseptic gauze.—The Building 'Trades' gift to the nation is taking the shape of a permanent home for discharged soldiers. A site has been given by Lord Pirbright, and valuable gifts in kind are being presented by various firms. Among these we notice that Messrs. G. B. Kent & Sons have given the entire equipment of brushes—paint, domestic, and toilet.—Messrs. Hoare & Son, chemists, Derby, have presented to each of the Volunteers in the Derbyshire company of the Imperial Yeomanry a parcel containing hair-brush, cloth-brush, comb, shaving-brush, and tablet of soap.

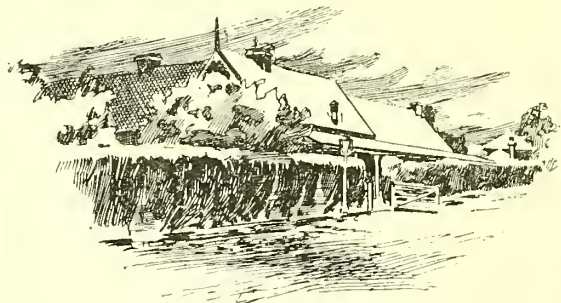
THE MAFEKING SORTIE.—Supplementing the cabled news in our issue of January 13, our Cape Town correspondent writes as follows:—"Early on January 5, particulars of the engagement which took place at Mafeking on December 26 reached me, and in the evening a list of killed and wounded was sent in by the military authorities. Many of the names were well known to me. Next morning I approached the military authorities at the Castle, Cape Town, with a view to gaining further information, so that there could be no mistake in transmitting the sad news to friends at home. Unfortunately, there was no mistaking the identity of the brave ones who fell, and I cabled you accordingly. Young Alfred Joseph Wood, on the list of killed, is a brother of Arthur Fred Wood, a chemist's assistant in the employ of Messrs. P. J. Petersen & Co., Cape Town, and now a prisoner—probably in Pretoria. He only recently came out to this country for his health. Young Mr. A. F. Gurney was in the employ of R. Sainsbury & Co., Cape Town."

ARMY SURGEON'S LIFE.—The following characteristic paragraph from Sir William MacCormac's experiences, in the *Lancet*, shows the splendid way the Royal Army Medical Corps are doing their duty:—

The spectacle at the field-hospitals was most painful. Ambulance waggon after waggon, and stretcher-squad after stretcher-squad, came in while I was there, pouring in the wounded, some of whom had died on the way and could unfortunately only be carried to the mortuary-tents. The work performed in the operating-tents was, in my opinion, of great efficiency, the operations being deliberately carried out with skill and despatch under the very trying circumstances of intense heat, hurry, and excitement all round. The Royal Army Medical Corps officers of these hospitals had started their surgical work about 3 A.M., and when I visited

them in the evening they were still hard at it, having had no food meanwhile and no time for rest, and the work went on for hours afterwards. I gave advice in many cases where I was asked, and advised against operation in the case of a poor fellow with a fearful shell-wound of the hip. Altogether some 800 patients passed through the field-hospitals during the day. The men showed the utmost pluck and endurance; there was not the smallest despondency, the predominant feeling being anxiety to return and fight again. This was very splendid of them after such a day as they had experienced, and makes one feel very proud of their fine mettle.

MARITZBURG HOSPITAL.—We have received from Pietermaritzburg a photo of Grey's Hospital in that town, from which we have made the accompanying sketch. This hospital is now used as a base-hospital for the wounded Imperial troops of the Natal Field Force under General Buller. Our correspondent has gleaned a few interesting details from one of the medicos in charge there. The



Mauser bullet-wound, which is always very clean, is usually dressed with iodoform and mercurial gauze. No internal medicine is given except in cases of high fever, and invariably an ordinary diet is ordered. Amputations heal quickly, but the surgeon could not quite say whether this was due to the good health of the men or because the Mauser bullet causes so little injury. There have been some very remarkable cases, perhaps the most extraordinary being that where the bullet entered at the base of the skull and came out at the forehead. In this case there were no complications, very little fever, and the patient was nearly well on January 6, the wound having been received at the battle of Colenso.

### "Truth" on Doctors.

THE touchiness of doctors is proverbial, remarks Mr. Labouchere in *Truth*, but not many more remarkable instances of it than the following could be found:—A doctor was recently attending a lady in the West-end of London. The lady died. A servant in the same house was also taken ill, and, at her request, a doctor of her choice was summoned to attend her. Within about forty-eight hours of the death of the lady the first doctor wrote to the master of the house that, in common decency, his bill for medical attendance ought to be settled. On being interrogated as to the cause of this communication, he gave as his reason that a strange doctor had been called in to attend the servant. Surely medical etiquette allows a servant the right to choose her own medical adviser.

We live and learn; but I have been under the impression that many medicos would be mortally offended if asked to doctor their patients' servants. Indeed, not long since I heard of a physician who, on being asked to prescribe for a maidservant, suggested that the girl should be sent to a brother-practitioner, whom he kindly referred to as "a servants' doctor." It is true that the "servants' doctor" was a rising man, and that there was apparently no great love lost between the two.

A SHEPHERD was making some purchases in a druggist's shop in Perth. Seeing a piece of resin on the counter, he was examining it, when the druggist said, "That's mastic," "Na, it's no' your stick," replied the shepherd, holding up his crook, "for I cuttit that ane oot o' Campsie Glen no'a month syne."



## Festivities.

### NEWCASTLE CHEMISTS FESTIVE.

The annual dinner of the Newcastle and District Chemists Association was held at the Hotel Métropole, Newcastle, on January 24. There was a large attendance, and Mr. Chas. Ridley (President) was in the chair. After the Chairman had toasted "The Queen," Mr. W. Kerse (Treasurer) proposed "The Army, Navy, and Auxiliary Forces," which was responded to by Lieut. John Gibson, chemist and druggist, of Hexham. "The Medical Profession" was honoured by Mr. T. Maltby Clague, who remarked that events of recent years had done much to upset the statement of the severe and caustic cynic who once said that a physician was a man who put drugs of which he knew little into bodies of which he knew less. Dr. Limont and Dr. Slater replied, the latter gentleman jocularly remarking that whilst they had consulting chemists, bone-setters, and tooth-drawers, there was little for the general practitioners to do, but they managed to live. There was a great need for reformation. Mr. G. Weddell proposed "The Pharmaceutical Society," to which Mr. J. D. Rose responded "The Newcastle and District Chemists' and Kindred Associations" was proposed by Mr. F. R. Dudderdridge, and responded by Mr. G. F. Merson. The toasts were agreeably enlivened with harmony.

### WHOLESALE DINE AND SMOKE.

The annual dinner and smoking-concert of Messrs. Baiss Brothers & Stevenson took place at the City Arms, St. Mary Axe, E.C., on January 19. Mr. Arnold Baiss presided, and was supported by his partners Mr. Sydney Baiss and Mr. H. E. Stevenson. After the toast "The Queen" had been given from the chair, Mr. J. Lloyd, who occupied the vice-chair, gave "The Firm," to which the Chairman responded, and Mr. Allen replied for "The Visitors" in an excellent speech. An admirable musical programme, under the direction of Mr. A. Baker, was successfully gone through, and the arrangements generally were in the hands of those capable stewards Messrs. H. E. Fifield and E. Wells. The entire proceedings were characterised by the greatest harmony and enjoyment.

### A BIG CONCERT.

On Friday evening, Messrs. Frederick Sage & Co., the well-known shopfitters and showcase-makers, of Gray's Inn Road, E.C., gave a grand concert in St. James's Hall, Piccadilly, on behalf of their Workmen's Emergency Sick Fund.

The hall was full in every part with an audience which seemed to keenly relish the orchestral performances by the South Lambeth Orchestral Society. Songs were sung by Madame Alice Lovenez and Miss Emily Foxcroft, Messrs. Dyed Lewys, Charles Conyers, and Harry Hudson. The Miles-Stavordale Quintette, from the Empire Theatre, gave a much-appreciated banjo entertainment.

In the course of the evening there were two exhibits by Messrs. Maskelyne & Cook's cinematograph, the pictures including several from the seat of war, showing a bayonet-charge by some of our men, and doctors and nurses attending the wounded. Other pictures, showing Messrs. Sage's workmen and staff leaving their premises at lunch-time, gave the audience much opportunity for comment, and visitors realised the gigantic nature of the business done by the firm as the pictures seemed to be interminable.

### LANTERN ENTERTAINMENT.

On January 29, Mr. A. Barton Kent, of the firm of G. B. Kent & Sons, Farringdon Road, E.C., gave an optical-lantern lecture at the Northampton Institute, Clerkenwell, E.C. The entertainment consisted of views of Naples, Pompeii, Athens, Jerusalem, Cairo and Malta, taken by Mr. Kent during a cruise in the Eastern Mediterranean. In introducing himself to the assembly, which numbered several hundreds, Mr. Kent disclaimed any desire to give a scientific or educational turn to his remarks, but nevertheless the explanatory description of the slides shown was delivered in an extremely interesting manner. Marseilles was selected as the starting-point, and thence by rapid movements the audience were transported to Naples. An

exceptionally fine series of views of restored Pompeii were shown, and the high state of civilisation reached by the Pompeians was dilated upon. Views were then shown of Greece and the Holy Land, and the lecture concluded with a fine series of Egyptian views, including Cairo, the Pyramids, and the Nile.

### A BIRTHDAY DINNER.

A dinner was given at the Market Tavern, Bradford, on January 29, to celebrate the 70th birthday of Mr. T. G. Forshaw, of Forshaw & Snow, chemists, Westgate. The company numbered between forty and fifty, and Professor Thor-Yorgensen, doctor of pharmacy, Copenhagen University, presided, the Vice-Chairmen being Dr. Jacob, J.P. (Ripon), and Mr. J. A. Riley, Ph.C. (Bradford). The menu-card was a quaint specimen of lithography. It contained a picture of Mr. Forshaw's birthplace in 1830, a portrait of himself at the present day, and an imaginary drawing representing that gentleman in apron, shirtsleeves, and youthful innocence wielding the pestle at 7 A.M. in the year 1845. It was likewise embellished with representations of the Greek and Spanish coats-of-arms and a drawing of the Bradford Infirmary as it was in 1864, besides being enlivened with drawings of pharmaceutical utensils. The back page was a chronological enumeration of the various offices and appointments held by Mr. Forshaw during his fifty-five years' connection with the drug-trade. Toasts, songs, recitations, and reminiscences kept the proceedings lively until 2 o'clock on the following morning.

### BOHEMIAN CONCERT.

A highly-successful concert promoted by the "Allenbury's" Cricket Club was held at the Falstaff Restaurant, Eastcheap, E.C., on January 31. There were several hundreds of people present, a large proportion being ladies. Mr. T. W. Tullett occupied the chair, supported by Mr. W. Ralph Dodd and Mr. Solomons. The singing of Miss Maude Ballard and Miss Alice Oliver was of a high order, Miss Ballard's song, "There's a Land," coming in for tremendous applause. A noteworthy item on the programme was the concertina solos of Mr. Alex. Prince. He played Wagner's "Pilgersmarsch from Tannhäuser," the "Freischütz," and selections from "Faust" and the "Bohemian Girl" in a marvellously expressive manner. Halfway through the concert the inevitable "Absent-minded Beggar" was recited by Mr. Herbert Bentley, and when the tambourines were returned to the Chairman it was found that 4l. 13s. 4d. had been collected. The amount was generously made up to 5l. by Mr. Solomons. The humorous element of the evening was present in the songs and sketches of Mr. Wilson James and Mr. Charles Conyers. The concert ended shortly after 11 by the singing of the "National Anthem."

## Business Changes.

Notices are inserted free in this section if properly authenticated.

HANHAM'S DRUG COMPANY are fitting up a new pharmacy at Lordship Lane, Goose Green, S.E.

MR. S. CLABER has taken over the management of the firm of Messrs. S. Claber & Co. (Limited), 30-34 Faulkner Street, Manchester.

MESSRS. NEVE & CO., chemists, Norman Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, have purchased the old-established business of Mr. Keyworth, at Castle Street, Hastings.

SELL'S "Commercial Intelligence" this week publishes a new map of South Africa showing the present position of our forces there. The novelty of the map is in the fact that it is from President Kruger's point of view.

"As a subscriber from the commencement of the journal I can bear testimony to the value of the information it has contained, and to the courtesy and signal ability with which it has been conducted." So a C. & D. subscriber (234/23) wrote to us on January 16, 1900.

## Students' Corner.

### PRESCRIPTION-READING.

IT has been remarked that the art of writing prescriptions is not cultivated by the medical man nowadays as it used to be formerly, and two causes have been assigned for it—first, the great development in recent years of medical science on its physiological or therapeutic side, which has crowded out materia medica and pharmacy, or at least given them a subordinate place in the curriculum of medical study; and second, the increasingly abundant provision which has been concurrently carried on for the requirements of the physician in his treatment of disease by means of what may be called "ready-made pharmacy," embracing not only forms for the exhibition of particular remedies, but combinations of them in almost endless variety. Be this as it may, there can be no doubt of the decadence of the art. There can be no danger, however, of the pessimistic prediction being verified that it will by-and-by become a "lost art." This from the nature of the case can never happen, and as long as prescription-writing continues, so long will the ability to read prescriptions form part of the qualification of the pharmacist, and prescription-reading be an integral part of our examination.

The first point for consideration on having a prescription handed to us is its legibility. This sometimes presents considerable difficulty, for doctors as a rule are bad writers, and the contraction of the terms is apt to increase the difficulty. When written out in full the difficulty rarely appears. Some prescriptions, especially foreign ones, are veritable puzzles. The difficulty, however, is more likely to be met at the dispensing-counter of the shop than in the examination-room. It would, indeed, be hardly fair for an examiner to add to the other burdens of the candidate the task of deciphering an ill-written and obscure prescription. Should the difficulty arise it will be best met by the exercise of intelligent common sense, which may suggest a consideration of the nature and purpose of the prescription, or the comparison of particular letters as they occur in different places. By either of these means light is often thrown on the darkness. But especially the student should cultivate a familiarity with prescriptions generally, which may be attained by a diligent perusal of them as they appear in volumes of autograph prescriptions which are open for inspection at both centres of examination, also as printed in our pages week by week, and, best of all, in Pereira's "Selecta & Prescriptis."

The Latinity is the next thing to be considered. Prescriptions are always written in Latin. It has been argued that, the Pharmacopœia being now in English, prescriptions should be in the same. But the advantages which the Latin language presents are so great—its conciseness, the facility with which it lends itself to contraction, and especially its acceptance by all the different nations as a medium of mutual understanding—that it may be safely assumed that it will continue to be employed. The candidate may suppose that, having already passed an examination in Latin at his Preliminary, he will not be again subjected to it now, and probably it will occur to the examiner that he is hardly justified in rejecting a man for deficient Latinity; in such a case, however, he will certainly make such a reduction in the number of marks which he awards as may bring about that result indirectly. After July next, however, any doubt on this point will disappear, for then the certificates of other bodies, and not our own, are to be accepted, and it will be the duty of the examiner—far more than at present—to become assured of the candidate's competence in this respect. After that date, too, it is probable that a longer period than at present may elapse between the time of the candidate getting his Latin certificate on leaving school, and of his presenting himself for his Minor, so that his Latin may have become rusty and require special attention in his preparation for examination. The student who is on his own resources should have little difficulty with this. Let him, with the aid of a Latin grammar, make himself familiar with the terminology of the cases in all the declensions, and of the tenses and persons in all the conjugations, so that he can recognise any one of them as readily as he can a letter of the alphabet or a word in English. Let him also acquire a familiarity with prescriptions by studying as many of them as he can

find access to, and make a point of rendering them in the unabbreviated form. Pereira's book will be found invaluable in this regard. Nor should the construction present much difficulty. It is so simple and uniform. There is the transitive verb "recipe," governing the accusative of the quantity, and this again governing the genitive of the ingredient. It may be pointed out that of late years a new vogue has come in with respect to this in cases where an indefinite quantity is indicated, thus—"Aquam ad uncias octo." Here the verb is made to govern the ingredient, and not the quantity. This variation seems unnecessary, for even as it stands there must be a quantity understood—viz., "a sufficient quantity"—which would allow the genitive "aque" to be used, as with the other ingredients. The new construction may be correct enough, but it is certainly inelegant, not to say pedantic. Still the candidate should be prepared for it. The construction of the remaining part of the prescription—viz., that ordering the manipulation and administration—is simplicity itself, and need not be referred to. Before leaving the subject of Latinity, will the candidate accept a wrinkle which is meant for his encouragement? There is nothing that gives an examiner a more favourable impression of his candidate than a familiarity on the part of the latter with the Latin language. The last point for consideration is posology; the whole subject of doses being embraced within the scope of this section of the examination. It is obvious that an intimate knowledge of doses is essential to the equipment of the pharmacist. It may be necessary to correct a mistake or inadvertence on the part of the prescriber, and prescriptions with dangerous doses are brought before the candidate to test his competence in this respect, so that he should be prepared. These overdoses will be confined to the most potent drugs, and he should be well "up" in these especially. He must also recollect that a dose which is quite proper may become dangerous if repeated at more or less frequent intervals. From candidates' reports it would appear that examiners sometimes ask the doses of drugs which are not given internally at all. It is difficult to understand on what ground this is done, but the candidate should be on his guard here, too. The B.P. is, of course, the supreme authority on the subject of dosage, and all its doses must be studied and committed to memory. Cases of incompatibility, either of a chemical or physiological nature, sometimes, though not frequently, occur in prescriptions, and probably some such may be placed before the candidate. It is impossible to lay down instructions with regard to them, but the incompatibilities are generally of such a glaring character that the candidate's knowledge of chemistry and pharmacy should be sufficient to enable him to detect them. He is strongly urged to watch and study cases of this kind. They are constantly forming subjects of discussion by the various associations connected with our body, and are duly reported in our journals.

### LIQUID-AIR EXPERIMENTS.

On Thursday evening, January 25, Dr. W. Hampson lectured to the students of the Imperial College of Chemistry (Mr. F. Davis's) on "Liquid Air." Dr. Hampson, by means of apparatus, obtained a temperature  $-192^{\circ}\text{C.}$ , and prepared about  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint of liquid air, subsequently performing a series of interesting experiments. Chloroform, ether, absolute alcohol, and whisky were frozen and passed round to the students in the solid state. It was noticed that as a portion of the liquid air boiled away from the inner tube of the vacuum jacket, the remainder assumed a blue colour; this, Dr. Hampson explained, was due to the nitrogen passing off more rapidly than the oxygen, so that the fluid remaining consisted of nearly pure liquid oxygen, which was proved by further experiment. In the course of his remarks, Dr. Hampson stated he supplied the liquid air in which Professor Ramsay discovered neon, crypton, and xenon.

TENNIEL'S CARTOON in last week's *Punch* is a little suggestive from a pharmaceutical point of view. "Gentlemen," says the Prime Minister to the other Ministers, "I don't care what we say, but we must all say the same thing." Necessary, I doubt, for a Cabinet, but by no means desirable in a deliberative council or committee.



## Observations and Reflections.

BY XRAYSER.

THE WINTER NUMBER, like Niagara, the Himalayas, and the Atlantic, needs a prolonged contemplation before its true greatness can be fully realised. Unfortunately, circumstances prevented my getting near it until it was time to send these notes to the printer. I have therefore only yet acquired general impressions from it, such as an undefined idea that pharmacists have all gone into uniform, and are going to war with the Government to recover stores of carbolic acid which the latter are keeping in Maiolica vases with Limitado and Crucibaldi to guard them, but that these frivolous persons have gone off with a girl named Pestac's, who is no better than she should be, and whose conduct would have been impossible in 1800.

MR. JOHN WADE.—I am glad the *C. & D.* has had the thoughtfulness to recall to the memory of this generation of chemists and druggists the honest and effective service which John Wade, of Pimlico, rendered to the trade in the sixties. There was much of the recklessness of untrained youth in the way the United Society of Chemists and Druggists rushed at its objects. As an example I may mention the wild way in which its orators used to talk of the thirty or forty thousand British chemists unrepresented by the Pharmaceutical Society. But it put a lot of vigour into its work, it compelled the services of half-a-dozen metropolitan members of Parliament, and the Pharmacy Act of 1858, which has been the model of scores of other Acts passed in other parts of the British Empire since, was mainly its work. This, at any rate, has been the testimony of its enemies. And John Wade was the most level-headed and far-seeing of its promoters. He was a convincing speaker, and I learn for the first time from the note published last week that he was the author of the first draft of the poisons schedule. I have often wondered who it was who compiled that remarkable selection of dangerous drugs which has on the whole so satisfactorily stood the test of experience. Would not Mr. Wade lend that original proof he refers to to the *C. & D.* for reproduction? It should be a document of no mean historic value to pharmacy.

MR. GLYN-JONES'S LEGAL LECTURE of last week contained several good points, and one or two ingenious discoveries. But to emphasise the good things would require too much space; comments on one or two questionable remarks in his lecture can be made much more briefly. It is not surprising that Mr. Glyn-Jones should advocate "some organisation which would put before the authorities the views of chemists and druggists" in regard to Acts of Parliament which may affect them, but his illustration of the action taken by the Grocers' Federation concerning the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1899, was not particularly fortunate. That Act, he says, bears evidence of the benefits resulting to the grocery trade from the representations made by the Federation. As a matter of fact, the two things which the Federation strove for were the establishment of a Board of Reference, and the enactment of a provision giving invoices the force of warranties. They were defeated on both these points, and there were not, I think, any sections of the Act which were adopted by Parliament for which the Grocers' Federation had any right to claim special credit.

GRIEVANCES must be running a bit scarce if we are to discover one, as Mr. Glyn-Jones wishes us to do, in that

section of the new Sale of Food and Drugs Act which authorises inspectors to take samples of foods in course of delivery, but does not extend that power to drugs. It would be a very objectionable power to give to inspectors, and if they exercised it they could only do so at the expense of perfectly legitimate trade. Drugs of low quality—drugs that would not fulfil the requirements of the Pharmacopœia—are bought, sold, and quite properly used every day, and interference with the delivery of these by ignorant inspectors would be a mischievous perversion of the law. The case of low-quality drugs is quite different from that of butter adulterated with margarine or of milk diluted with water.

"SIX-AND-SIXPENCE'S" EXPERIENCES are always interesting, but I am old-fashioned enough to hope that pharmaceutical advertising will not generally take the direction he suggests. We are, or ought to be, fit for better things than betting on the time a big candle will burn, while jokes about my rheumatism, my liver, or my sore places generally, are not what will secure my confidence, or win my custom. But the world is made up of many sorts of people, and after all, I think I prefer "Six-and-Sixpence's" pluck and go to Mr. Blank's solemn and exclusive reliance on the same old form of introduction to the public as was used by the old gentleman to whom he was apprenticed, and by his master before him.

MINOR RESULTS.—The request made by "W. B." that the addresses of successful candidates at the Minor examination should be published as well as their names is most reasonable. I gather from the reply to him in this journal, and from one to a similar inquiry in the Journal of the Pharmaceutical Society, that these addresses are simply not given because they are not given. I cannot conceive of any good reason why they should not be published. Most of the candidates, I presume, live somewhere, and, if they were asked to fill up a form stating an address which would be the most likely to be a permanent one, 95 per cent. of them would gladly do it. If, as appears from the official reply, the Registrar takes no trouble to ascertain this necessary piece of information, how does he make up his register? If he does ascertain it, why should not the list as published be as useful as it could be made?

THE HOUSE OF KEYS seems to have made an unfortunate mistake in their final discussion of the Manx Pharmacy Act. Their intention was apparently to imitate the British Act in all essential particulars, and this intention had been carried out with every care until the clause corresponding to our 17th, which prescribes the labelling of poisons and the registration of their sales, was reached. I find, from a report in an Isle of Man paper, that in the sentence, "for the purposes of this section the person on whose behalf any sale is made by any apprentice or servant shall be deemed to be the seller," it was agreed that the word "Act" should be substituted for the word "section." Some remark was made on the unfairness of subjecting the assistant to a prosecution when the employer is the real culprit, and the amendment was, therefore, sympathetically received. But the members of the Manx Parliament did not probably realise that, as a result, their Act may be practically set at naught by the assent thus given to the condition that poisons may be sold to any extent by unqualified persons in chemists' or company's shops without any supervision.

A NORFOLK CHEMIST writes: "I greatly value your valuable publication, and cannot understand how any chemist can get along without it. It is simply impossible for a man to be up-to-date if he does not read the *C. & D.*" —(247/51.)

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**PLASMON.**  
**IMPORTANT.**

See Pages 30 and 31.

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**Editorial Comments.**

**"My Lords and Gentlemen,"**

"THE time is not propitious for any domestic reforms which involve a large expenditure." In these words the Queen introduced her forecast of the legislation which will be undertaken by the Government during the Session of Parliament which commenced on Tuesday. Every citizen of the British Empire deplores the calamity which has dispelled the hope of our venerable Queen that peace should prevail during the last years of her reign. Destiny has otherwise ordained it, yet it is significant that in this hour of woe the unity of the British race has been realised by colonial participation in a crisis indirectly theirs, while the Queen and her Parliament give earnest of kinship with distant parts of the Empire in the promised legislation respecting Australian federation. Our statesmen, irrespective of party, at last realise that the conservation of our Empire is the highest imperialism. The



prosperity of nations, like the success of businesses and the happiness of families, is dependent upon proper understanding and close union between their integral parts. The Australian colonies are ripe for a federation similar to that which has been to Canada so potential for good, and the present seems a providential time for indorsing the almost unanimous desire of the colonies for federal government.

We give the colonial note of the Queen's Speech first place because it is most significant of future stability to British industries and trade, also our association with pharmacy brings us into touch with druggists in all parts of the Empire. We thus have many occasions for appreciating what are the sympathies of our colonial *confireres*, and with them all the desire for closer and reciprocal relations between the Mother Country and her dependencies is practically universal. It is impossible to ignore this element of pharmaceutical thought, and we do not despair that the oldest pharmaceutical authority in the Empire will yet follow the example of the Imperial Government by supporting a scheme of reciprocity.

The second note of the Speech which has interest to the drug-trade is that referring to Ways and Means. It is, of course, a certainty that measures for augmenting the revenue of the country will be passed during this Session of Parliament, and they are likely to directly affect the drug-trade in one way or other. It will be some weeks before the Chancellor of the Exchequer submits his proposals to Parliament, so that anything now said in regard to them is conjectural. The 10,000,000% vote of credit which the autumn Session of Parliament granted has been spent several times over, and something not far short of 100,000,000% will be required to get us out of our present tight corner. This the home taxpayer has to meet. But the expenditure is likely to be funded in such a way that it will not add permanently to the National Debt. Already we have heard that the funds required may be obtained by increasing the income-tax, spirit-duty, tea-duty, and tobacco-duty. At present these taxes yield the following annual revenue:—

|                                  | £           |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Income-tax ... ..                | 18,000,000  |
| Home spirits ... ..              | 18,000,000  |
| Foreign spirits and wines ... .. | 6,000,000   |
| Home beer ... ..                 | 12,000,000  |
| Tobacco ... ..                   | 12,000,000  |
| Tea ... ..                       | 4,000,000   |
|                                  | £70,000,000 |

These gigantic figures are a fair indication of our ability to meet extraordinary expenditure, and the fact that the present crisis interests all classes of the community equally has doubtless suggested to the prophets these items of taxation, which are incident, one or the other, upon all classes. The Chancellor of the Exchequer will think long before he increases greatly the taxes on spirits and tobacco. In themselves these are articles of slight intrinsic value: nearly all that we pay for them is duty. On the other hand, beer is but moderately taxed, and 1*d.* on the gallon would give the Treasury 5,000,000% a year. It would require the equivalent of 2*s.* 3*d.* per proof-gallon on home and foreign spirits, and wines proportionately, to yield an equal amount. Every 3*d.* per lb. on tobacco brings a million into the Exchequer; each penny per lb. on tea a million, and each penny of income-tax two millions and a quarter. One point which must be considered in taxing articles of consumption now is that the increase should be such that the consumer will pay it. When the tax on spirits was last raised, the increase was so small that the retailer had to pay it so far as the spirit sold in the form of medicinal preparations was concerned. Tinctures and the like cannot be watered as the

publican waters gin and whisky. To the retail druggist an increase of 2*s.* per proof-gallon on rectified spirit would be about the least that he could secure again from his customers in the shape of  $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* or 1*d.* per oz. on tinctures.

From the foregoing it will be seen that each 10,000,000% of revenue could be obtained from the following sources:—

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1 <i>d.</i> per £ on income-tax ... ..          | £3,300,000  |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i> per gal. on beer ... .. | 2,500,000   |
| 1 <i>s.</i> per gal. on spirits ... ..          | 2,200,000   |
| 1 <i>d.</i> per lb. on tea ... ..               | 1,000,000   |
| 3 <i>d.</i> per lb. on tobacco ... ..           | 1,000,000   |
|   | £10,000,000 |

Probably not less than twice as much as this total will be required to put the armaments of the country on an efficient basis, and to meet the interest and redemption of the funded military expenditure, so that the drug-trade may expect that its commercial basis will, to some extent, be affected by the Budget. With the exception of alcohol and its derivatives there is no other pharmaceutical commodity at present taxed which is at all worth the Government's attention. Medicine-stamps yield a quarter of a million a year, and the tax is tolerated, but any attempt to increase it would rouse a spirit of opposition to the taxation of the sick. A duty on aerated waters has often been suggested, but Sir Michael Hicks-Beach in his last Budget speech treated that suggestion with such amusing banter as to indicate its impracticability, and he has this week given a hint to a tea-merchant that the present speculation in tea with the view of a rise in the duty may be as disastrous to the speculators as the tobacco fiasco was last year. The feelings of the public now is that they have something to pay for, and they would rather pay in a few solid taxes than in dribbling farthings on almost everything, as was done at the beginning of the century.

## First Item on the Programme.

EVERYTHING in the Parliamentary business of the Session will be subservient to the great issues which members have been called together so early in the year to consider. The Government's policy will take up much of the time of the Session, through criticism and otherwise, while "ways and means" will necessitate new enactments. So the legislative programme as presented on Tuesday, is short but the first item in it is that which most interests our readers—viz., the Companies Bill. "Amendments are required in the laws which govern limited liability companies" is the phrasing of the Queen's Speech. The position of the Bill in the programme does not necessarily mean that it will be the first measure proceeded with, or that it will be enacted, but Mr. Ritchie, President of the Board of Trade, has given notice that he will ask leave to introduce the measure on Monday, and it is to be expected that as soon as the Address to the Queen has been disposed of, and before the Budget proposals are brought forward, the measure will be pushed along. So far as the drug-trade is concerned, interest in the Bill centres round the Lord Chancellor's clause by which it is proposed to explicitly legalise the assumption by limited companies of the titles and functions of chemists and druggists and pharmaceutical chemists. Apart from this clause, and one as explicitly preventing the assumption by limited companies of the titles and functions of physicians, surgeons, dentists, and midwives, the Companies Bill "has been brought into practical shape through the prolonged labours and exhaustive criticism of eminent lawyers and experienced men of business," therefore it is exactly a measure which will command the attention of the House, and prob-

ably its approval. This circumstance makes it all the more imperative that chemists and druggists and pharmaceutical chemists should take the earliest possible opportunity of letting their Parliamentary representatives know that the company-pharmacy clause (if it should happen to be retained in the Bill) has not had the advantage of the "labours of eminent lawyers and experienced men of business." The Lord Chancellor alone is responsible for it, and he has ignored the advice of those most experienced in the matter—viz., the representative societies which are charged by statute with the administration of the Pharmacy Acts. This is the first point to impress upon Parliamentary representatives, who will otherwise conclude that this adventitious clause has received careful consideration similar to those dealing with bogus companies and dummy directors. The second point is to indicate to the representatives what the pharmacy clause should be. Here those who reckon themselves loyal to the Pharmaceutical Societies may find themselves in a difficulty: they may not like to move before the councils of the societies show what they are going to do. That is an honourable attitude for which we have every respect, but we are convinced that general action throughout the trade by the chemists of every Parliamentary division influencing their representatives, will be necessary in order to get the Lord Chancellor's clause modified in accordance with the principles of the British and Irish Pharmacy Acts. One principle common to both is that the owner of a business carried on for the purposes of the Acts shall be qualified as specified therein; and a second principle, created in the Irish Act, is that if a business is carried on in more than one shop each shop other than that managed by the qualified owner shall be managed by a qualified person. The Lord Chancellor's proposal violates the first principle by recognising unqualified ownership, and it would legalise and perpetuate the evil of one-man companies, formed by individuals who have failed to qualify under the Pharmacy Acts, and have taken advantage of a flaw therein by converting themselves and other unqualified persons into limited companies. We hold that the qualified-owner principle should, as far as possible be maintained, and that this can best be done (without excluding the company principle from pharmacy) by requiring all companies engaged in the retail drug-trade to entrust the management of their businesses to directors who are qualified under the Pharmacy Acts. Such directors would stand, actually and legally, in the place of the qualified owner. The Lord Chancellor appears to have had such an idea as this in view when he proposed that limited companies engaged in the drug-trade should appoint a qualified chemist as manager of the business, but if the exhaustive criticism of experienced men of business had been heard and considered by the House of Lords' Committee the inadequacy of his proposal might have been observed, and its terms modified accordingly. This argument should certainly be advanced to Parliamentary representatives. The second principle—viz., that a qualified person should have personal supervision of each open shop, seems to require enactment, because special provision requiring a qualified manager, or qualified director or directors of a business, might be construed to imply exemption from other conditions controlling individual ownership. The principle must be maintained so far as Ireland is concerned, and by extending it to Great Britain in regard to companies, the way would be paved for immediate modification in the same direction of the law dealing with individuals. Finally, the point should be strongly urged upon Parliamentary representatives that titles which are conferred upon individuals as the result of their qualifica-

tion by examination in subjects which exercise skill and knowledge, should not be used by companies as an addition to their corporate title, or as a trading designation. While we wait for the Pharmaceutical Councils, which will meet next week, to give some sign to their constituents as to what they are to do, we think it would be in the highest degree regrettable, considering recent events, if chemists throughout the three kingdoms were not to exercise to the fullest their power as intelligent and influential voters. The time for polemics is past, and that for strenuous action has arrived.

### A Dangerous Advocate.

THE chemists of Great Britain have not forgotten the member for the Camlachie Division of Glasgow, Mr. Alexander Cross. He is the parliamentarian who so effectually blocked the Pharmacy Bill of 1898 on account, it transpired, of his personal grievance against the Pharmaceutical Society, which had prosecuted a firm in which he was interested for infringement of the Pharmacy Act. Mr. Cross has agricultural interests—seeds, manures, and the like—and poisonous insecticides are amongst the things which he thinks he should be allowed to sell. The Legislature thought otherwise when it enacted the Arsenic Act and various Poisons Acts that require retail sellers of certain simple and compounded poisons to hold certain qualifications, and appointed the Pharmaceutical Society to see that these statutory provisions are properly carried out. Mr. Cross was the first to tell Parliament that these poison statutes are all wrong, and he did his work with great force for he knew exactly what he wanted—viz., that seedsmen (*i.e.*, unqualified persons in the statutory sense) should be allowed to sell poisons in sealed packets properly labelled. He talked much about chemists' monopoly, big profits, and bogey things of that kind, but the House of Commons took it all in good part—he was a member with a grievance—and calmly ignored his contentions. We recall these circumstances because the other day Mr. A. Graham Murray, Q.C., the Lord Advocate, and a member of the Government, was, in the course of heckling at a public meeting which he addressed, asked by a constituent if he would support a Bill in Parliament making it legal for seedsmen and other agents to sell poisonous preparations, such as sheep-dips, insecticides, and weed-killers. The Lord Advocate replied that where poisonous substances were dealt with in the way of being dispensed, it was only right that this should be done only by qualified persons; but in his view, where they did not need to be dispensed, but were supplied by the manufacturer in the final form in which they were to be applied, he saw no reason why any trade or profession should have a monopoly of selling them, provided proper regulations were made and precautions taken that they would not be supplied or used for any other purposes than those for which they were meant. This is a serious declaration to come from so eminent an upholder of the law as the Lord Advocate. Even with all due allowance for the *suaviter in modo* requisite and usual in replying to a heckler we submit that the Lord Advocate requires instruction on the statutory side of the question, and we think that the Pharmaceutical Society's representatives should take the earliest possible opportunity of interviewing Mr. Graham Murray. In his present frame of mind he is a dangerous advocate in matters relating to the sale of poisons.

### Legislation for Assistants.

FROM such widely divergent world-centres as New York and Moscow come simultaneously to us news of reforms on



behalf of chemists' assistants. In 1898 an agitation was started in New York by a trade-union combination calling itself "The Druggists' League for Shorter Hours." Its object was the betterment of the drug-clerk's lot, but the methods were distasteful to New York pharmacists generally, and the Bill brought forward by the League (for full text see *C. & D.*, September 17, 1898, page 477) was opposed by pharmaceutical associations and by the entire trade press of the country. This opposition killed the measure at the eleventh hour, for it passed the New York Senate, and was only quashed by the Governor's veto. We now learn that an almost identical Bill emanating from the Pharmaceutical Clerks' Association, and endorsed by the pharmaceutical associations in Greater New York, has been introduced into the Assembly. This measure differs in no essential particular from the proposals of 1898, and its support by pharmacist-employers is due, we fancy, to the exclusion of the "paid-agitator" element. The Bill proposes to enact that no pharmacist or drug-clerk employed in a pharmacy shall be required or permitted to work more than seventy hours per week; the working-hours per day to be consecutive and one hour allowed for each meal—how many meals the measure sayeth not. No proprietor shall require or permit any clerk to sleep in any room or apartment in, or connected with, a drug-store which does not comply with the sanitary regulations of the Local Board of Health. The usual pains and penalties are provided for. This is the sort of progressive movement which we are taught to expect from Republican America, unhampered as it is by that trusted conservatism which ancient countries like our own are so fond of; but what shall we say to a like precept from bureaucratic Russia? The Russian Pharmaceutical Congress recently held at Moscow came to the conclusion that privileged pharmacies should be done away with by the Government—in spite of the fact that the preliminary cost would be from forty to fifty million roubles. They resolved, further, that the position of pharmaceutical assistants should be bettered. An eight-hours day would be instituted, and instead of having to take their meals on the premises assistants would be allowed a certain sum in lieu thereof, and, we suppose, obtain them out of doors. The standard of education is also proposed to be raised; compulsory apprenticeship of two years to be followed by a three-years course at the University, where pharmacy is taught in connection with a Physico-Mathematical faculty, after which the student would be required to pass his first examination as a "candidate of pharmacy." The Congress likewise resolved to obtain if possible the appointment of a pharmacist in the Medical Department of the Ministry, and decided to give women the same rights in pharmacy as men. A central committee of the different pharmaceutical associations in Russia has been appointed to see these reforms carried through, and to adjust the difficulties which may arise between employers and assistants.

Little need be added in the nature of comment to these particulars, but, Chemists' Assistants' Union, please note.

#### BRITISH PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.

The Secretaries of the Conference have prepared an alphabetical list of the towns at which members reside, with the view of Local Secretaries or other willing helpers getting more names on it. Looking over the list we find that London is the Conference's stronghold; Liverpool is next in order, then come Manchester, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. Belfast beats Dublin by two members, and some towns make curious contrasts, relation of membership to population not being at all universal. The list should be a stimulant of the first order.

#### "UNHOUSELL'D, DISAPPOINTED, UNANNEALED."

Nobody knows exactly what William meant by this very well sounding line, and piles of comments have been written on each of the words. Probably he was not quite sure himself, but thought it represented what was in his mind. Likewise, it seems to represent the condition in which we pharmacists are going before Parliament to meet the most important proposal that has been made concerning us since 1868.

#### VOLUNTEER COMPOUNDERS.

*Truth* acknowledges its error about the volunteer dispensers getting 4s. a day, 3s. 6d. being the figure. "There is not the slightest possibility," adds our contemporary, "that chemists holding the diplomas of the Pharmaceutical Society will be recruited on these miserably inadequate terms, and in default the War Office will have to accept the services of men supposed to have had a more or less—generally less—practical experience of dispensing. In this respect, however, the War Office is only following in the footsteps of the Local Government Board, which admits men to Poor-law dispenserships with qualifications of much less value than those required for similar appointments in her Majesty's prisons. Soldiers and paupers are apparently both considered of less account than criminals."

#### EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITION.

There has just been closed at the Imperial Institute an exhibition by the Board schools, national schools, high schools, public schools, technical schools, university colleges, and universities in England and Wales which has caused considerable talk in scholastic circles. There never has been such an exhibition organised in this country before, and in some respects it has been a revelation of the progress of technical education with us. We can only compare it with the similar exhibits which were made at the Paris Exhibition of 1889 and the Chicago Exhibition, of 1893, when, under Government aid, most countries in Europe exemplified their systems of education. The Imperial Institute Exhibition was not by any means so systematically arranged as were those others to which we refer, but it appeared to us a point of gratification that the School Boards and County Councils in various parts of England have thoroughly grasped the purpose of the special Government aid for technical education which sprang from the 6d. extra beer-duty which was to buy out publicans, but has been diverted to this much more useful purpose. Chemistry, botany, physics, and physiology appear to be well looked after in most districts, but the feature which we specially noted was that children in the elementary and higher-grade schools are being instructed in the methods and principles underlying local industries. Although the work exhibited has in most cases been selected, after allowing for this fact it is encouraging and gives promise that the rising generation of industrial workers will not be far behind their continental competitors in respect to knowledge of theory and technique.

#### MALARIA AND TUBERCULOSIS.

The *Times* of January 30 devotes more than a column to record a personally-conducted visit made by twenty English physicians, headed by Sir T. Lauder Brunton, to the Sanatorium at Palermo, founded by Commendatore Florio, a wealthy citizen of Palermo. The excursionists first visited Rome in order to see what is being done there under the auspices of Professor Grassi for the suppression of malaria. A sort of anti-malarial village has been constructed in which the houses are effectually screened from the entrance of malaria-carrying mosquitoes. In regard to the Consumption Sanatorium at Palermo our contemporary remarks:—

The guests were entertained in the Villa Igica, the exquisite palace in which consumptive patients are to be received and

treated on the open-air system, with all advantages that a beautiful and uniform climate, a lovely site, and every luxury of life can give. The sanatorium, which will be completed in a few months and then opened by the King and Queen of Italy, is built outside Palermo upon the rocks on which the deep sea of the bay actually beats. In the clefts of these sunny rocks are marble benches, temples, and grottoes, and about their sinuous margins winds terrace upon terrace broadening up to the plateau on which, some 40 yards from the sea, the sanatorium stands, sheltered behind to the north by the mass of Monte Pellegrino. Of this great and splendid curehouse Professor Cervello is the physician-in-chief, and Baron Fassini, whose charming qualities as a host endeared him to his guests, is the director. The most perfect modern systems of cure have been studied in Germany and elsewhere by Professor Cervello, whose dietetic regulations will be rendered less oppressive by the ministrations of a first-rate French chef, and whose draughts of fresh air will be administered to those who desire it in a beautiful yacht of 300 tons, which is always to be at the call of the patient.

We learn from the account that Commendatore Florio did not entertain his guests thus sumptuously for the purpose of advertisement, but, strange to say, the report concludes with the remark that "he was wishful that English physicians should see at work a method of inhalation of formaldehyde vapour, which Professor Cervello believes will prove a very valuable ally to the open-air treatment of pulmonary phthisis." We gather that the formaldehyde treatment is an important part of the Florio scheme, and may add that the business office in London is at 95 Wigmore Street, W.

#### "WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A DISPENSER."

This is the title of an article in last week's *Home Chat*. The writer tells how she entered pharmacy. After being registered as a student she got the necessary dispensing experience in the New Hospital for Women, Euston Road. She found the work congenial, but she says she "would never recommend anyone without special ability to become a dispenser. In the laboratory deftness and lightness in handling small articles is a necessity, and in no profession is nicety of touch more desirable. Method, patience, and extreme cleanliness are also necessary in a dispenser." Then she studied in the School of Pharmacy for the Minor, and was fortunate enough to pass with flying colours, and by so doing obtained the right to add the letters P.S. to her name. We suppose that she means by that A.P.S., and thus falls into the very common error. She also mentions that the examinations are held "at the School of Pharmacy in London," but that "the necessary training may be obtained in Birmingham, Edinburgh, Exeter, and Manchester." It is undoubtedly the case that the examinations are now held in the School of Pharmacy, for although the Pharmaceutical Society, some years ago, spent nearly 15,000*l.* on examination premises which were expected to separate the examinations entirely from the Society's educational arrangements, the premises have proved inadequate, and the examination in chemistry is now partly conducted in laboratories used for educational purposes. The *Home Chat* writer goes on to tell how she passed the Major, and that 70*l.* covered the course of training, books, and fees. She then obtained an appointment in the dispensary attached to a West-end chemist's business, then, after six months, went as dispenser to a Liverpool hospital at 50*l.* per annum with board and residence, and now is a dispenser in a London Poor-law infirmary, with 110*l.* a year and partial board. The writer concludes as follows:—

Speaking personally, I believe that the chances for women as chemists and dispensers are exceedingly good. To start a chemist's business, however, from 500*l.* to 1,000*l.* capital is required, and great care should be taken to choose a locality in which there are very few similar shops. The work is pleasant, and I am inclined to think that, given a fairly "level-headed" woman, the chances of her becoming a confirmed drug-taker are no more than in the case of the average male chemist. I mention this because, curiously enough, it has been urged as a reason against women becoming chemists on their own account. Again, there are immense possibilities, where women have some influence among medical men—who do not do their own dispensing—in

setting up as dispensers to whom physicians may send their prescriptions to be made up.

The *Queen* is not so sanguine about pharmacy as the *Home Chat* lady, for, in replying to a correspondent, our contemporary says:—

We do not consider that dispensing offers at present a good return, considering the amount of money and time that must be expended upon preparation for the work. We think it likely, however, that qualified women may in future obtain employment, not only as dispensers to medical men and women and to public institutions, but also as superintendents in the business of wholesale manufacturing chemists.

### Phenol=proclamation.

IN our Coloured Supplement last week we printed the General Order issued by Mr. R. T. Prowse, C.B., on behalf of the Board of Customs, permitting shippers to export picric acid, carbolic acid, and other articles recently proclaimed under conditions similar to those obtaining in regard to the export of tinctures under drawback. We understand that the arrangement came to with the Board of Customs by the deputation representing the tar-distillers and the wholesale and export drug-trades is that wholesale houses and shippers applying for the necessary permission will give the Board a General Bond. Those who do not give such a bond should apply for the necessary permission for each shipment on the terms mentioned in the General Order, viz.:—

Give to the Customs full particulars as to the exact description, destination, intended uses, &c., of the particular consignment for which exemption may be sought. It should also be stated whether the consignment is a special one, or whether it arises in the ordinary course of the business of the shippers, and, if intended for the Government of any foreign State or any British possessions abroad, any corroborative evidence that may be forthcoming on that point should also be put in.

The deputation also called at the Home Office on Monday when there were present, in addition to the representative of the Home Office, prominent officers from the Customs, Treasury, and War Office. The deputation was received by Sir Kenelm E. Digby, K.C.B., the Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs. Mr. S. B. Boulton submitted the case for the tar-distillers in an exhaustive and temperate speech. His statements were endorsed by commercial documents indicating the extent of the business done in cresols and phenols with foreign countries, and showing the purposes to which they were put. Dr. Raschig, of Ludwigshafen, for instance, in the most candid way had furnished details of the quantity of raw material he had imported and its destination, and it was noticeable how little had been used for explosives which had not come back to England. These figures and others tendered were confirmed in the most interesting manner by perhaps the largest brokers in these products—Mr. Victor Blagden, of Messrs. Blagden & Waugh. It was noticeable that, without exception, the German buyers offered to give the destination of the manufactured products, so that their business not be hampered needlessly. Mr. Boulton, supported by Mr. Lennard, of Messrs. Forbes, Abbott & Lennard, offered the Government every assistance in their power as to sales and destination. Mr. Blagden remarked that he had already imported a small quantity of carbolic acid made from phenol. Mr. Tyrer supplemented this by the statement that when an application was made to a Magistrate for a licence to erect works for the manufacture of picric acid, and the statement was reported that "none" was made in England, he made inquiries, and found that practically that was so. Mr. Umney pointed out the extensive use of the salicylates and salicylic acid in medicine and for preservatives, and incidentally how the patent-laws worked against and not for the British manufacturer. Mr. Tyrer, seeing representatives of so many departments, took the opportunity of dragging in his favourite spirit-drawback and manufacture-in-bond question. Sir Kenelm Digby's only doubt seemed to be sufficient guarantees; and Mr. Boulton and his colleagues having given him the fullest assurance on the subject, Sir Kenelm said he would at once communicate with the British Foreign Office on the matter, and concluded the interview thanking the deputation.



## Westminster Wisdom.

PARLIAMENT was opened by commission on Tuesday, January 30, at 2 P.M., when a moderate attendance in the House of Lords awaited the Lords Commissioners deputed by the Queen to deliver her Speech. The Speaker, accompanied by members of the House of Commons, attended, according to ancient custom, to hear the Lord Chancellor read the Speech, which promised to submit a Companies Bill as the first item of legislation, and a measure for giving effect to the federation of the Australian colonies. Then the Houses settled down to talk about the war.

### NOT LORD MONDAY.

The Right Honourable Sir John Lubbock, Baronet, having been created Baron Avebury, of Avebury, in the county of Wilts, was, immediately after the Queen's Speech had been read, introduced to the House of Lords by Lord James of Hereford and Lord Kelvin—an appropriate pair for such a peer. Baron Avebury went through the business cheerfully, smiling blandly on everybody. When he bent the knee to the Lord Chancellor to present his patent he looked as benevolent as if he had found a new Druidical monument. Having retired and disrobed he returned and took a place on the Opposition side below the gangway.

### IN THE COMMONS.

The preliminary formalities which have to be gone through before M.P.'s settle down to work in the Lower Chamber are strikingly reminiscent of former times. One curious resolution was passed on Tuesday which is worth printing if for nothing else than to show country cousins and others who visit the lobbies rarely why the gentlemen in blue are so firm yet courteous. It is in the following terms:—

Ordered, That the Commissioners of the Police of the Metropolis do take care that, during the Session of Parliament, the passages through the streets leading to this House be kept free and open, and that no obstruction be permitted to hinder the passage of Members to and from this House, and that no disorder be allowed in Westminster Hall, or in the passages leading to this House, during the Sitting of Parliament, and that there be no annoyance herein or thereabouts; and that the Serjeant-at-Arms attending his House do communicate this Order to the Commissioners aforesaid.

How few are aware that the passages through the streets must be kept clear for M.P.'s.

### THE CLERK RESIGNS.

Sir Reginald F. D. Palgrave, K.C.B., has resigned his office of Clerk to the House. He entered the Committee Office in 1853, and became Clerk in 1886. He is a son of Sir F. Palgrave, Deputy-Keeper of the Rolls, and is the highest authority in the land on the duties of chairmanship. He is a man of high culture, has written an appreciation of Oliver Cromwell, has sketched much and carved in stone and modelled in clay as pastimes. His intellectual face will be missed from the central chair of the three immediately in front of the Speaker. He was heartily thanked by the House on Thursday, Mr. Balfour moving the vote.

### MINISTERIAL BILLS.

Notice was given that leave would be asked for on an early date to introduce the following amongst other Bills:—To amend the Factory and Workshops Act (by the Home Secretary); to amend the Companies Acts (by the President of the Board of Trade).

Mr. Ritchie has given notice that he will introduce the Companies Bill on Monday, February 5. Sir Matthew White Ridley will introduce his Factory Bill the same evening.

### CHROMATE-WORKS.

Under the Factory and Workshop Acts special rules have been formulated with regard to the employment of persons in chemical-works in which the manufacture of bichromate or chromate of potassium or sodium is carried on. A copy of the rules has been presented to the House of Commons.

### UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM.

A copy of the charter and statutes of this University has been laid on the table of the House of Commons. We gather,

from it that the first Chancellor will be Mr. Chamberlain, the Vice-Principal Robert Samuel Heath, M.A., D.Sc. (Principal of Mason College), and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Bertram Coghill Alan Windle, M.A., M.D., D.Sc., F.R.S.

### MILK AND CREAM STANDARDS.

The President of the Board of Agriculture has appointed a departmental committee to inquire and report as to what regulations may be made under Section 4 of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1899, for determining what deficiency in any of the normal constituents of genuine milk or cream, or what addition of extraneous matter or proportion of water in any sample of milk (including condensed milk) or cream, shall raise a presumption, until the contrary is proved, that the milk or cream is not genuine. The Committee consists of Lord Wenlock (Chairman), Mr. George Barham, Mr. George Cowan, Major P. G. Craigie (an assistant-secretary of the Board), Mr. S. W. Farmer, Mr. Shirley F. Murphy, M.D., Professor Thorpe, F.R.S., and Mr. J. Augustus Voelcker, Ph.D.

## Personalities.

MR. WM. ELBORNE, M.A., F.C.S., pharmaceutical chemist, has been appointed public analyst for Peterborough.

AT A MEETING of the Justices on January 26, Mr. Alderman Benjamin Robinson, chemist, Pendleton, was unanimously elected Chairman of the Visiting Committee of Her Majesty's Prison, Manchester.

MR. BRUDENELL CARTER has retired from the General Medical Council as representative of the Society of Apothecaries, London. Sir Hugh Reeve Beevor, Bart., M.D., F.R.C.P., has been elected to succeed him.

MR. WILLIAM MARTIN, pharmaceutical chemist, Southampton, has been installed as Worshipful Master of the Peace and Harmony Lodge of Freemasons in that town. Mr. Martin held the position of Senior Warden during the past year.

THE estate of Mr. John Thompson, wholesale druggist, Hanover Street, Liverpool, who died on September 10, 1899, has been sworn at 43,681*l.* 11*s.* 5*d.*, of which 37,905*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* is net personalty. He appointed his wife, Mrs. Margaret Thompson, executrix of his will, and to her probate has been granted.

AT THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL of St. John, in connection with the Faith Lodge, 581, Openshaw, held on January 20, Brother Councillor C. H. Griffiths, chemist, was presented with a gold Past-Master's Jewel by the brethren, upon the completion of a pleasant and prosperous year as Worshipful Master.

A YEOMAN'S WEDDING.—Mr. F. C. Ashford, son of Mr. E. C. Ashford, chemist, Northampton, has been accepted for service with the Hampshire contingent of the Imperial Yeomanry, and sails for South Africa on Saturday next. Mr. Ashford managed one of his father's shops in Northampton, and was only married on Monday last to the daughter of one of his father's former managers.

MR. WILLIAM HENRY POWER, F.R.S., who has been appointed to succeed the late Sir Richard Thorne Thorne as Principal Medical Officer to the Local Government Board, is an old St. Bartholomew's Hospital student, and took his L.S.A. in 1864, and also holds the M.R.C.S. diploma. His work in connection with the etiology of infectious diseases has been of a high order, and many of the most valuable reports which have been issued by his department during recent years have come from his pen.

MR. E. A. WEBB, of the firm of Evans, Lescher & Webb, has lately invaded the domain of literature by writing, in association with Mr. G. W. Miller and Mr. J. Beckwith, a very complete "History of Chislehurst," which has just been published in one handsome volume by Mr. George Allen, at 30*s.* net. Mr. Webb has contributed the whole of the ecclesiastical history of the parish, and also the sections on the natural history of the locality, its fauna, its flora, and its geology. Lengthy reviews of the work appeared in last week's *Athenaeum* and *Spectator*.

## Legal Reports.

### Last Week's Supplement.

AFTER the legal reports printed in the white-paper pages of last week's issue were printed we received several reports which were included in the coloured-supplement. The more important of these were the libel action by Messrs. Elliman, Sons & Co., of Slough, against the *United Service Gazette and Organ of Imperial Federation*, which resulted in a verdict for Messrs. Elliman. The report contained some stringent remarks by the Lord Chief Justice, as to the conduct of the City editor of the paper. Another interesting case was the appeal by Mr. John Spanton, chemist and druggist, Norton, Yorks, against the verdict of the County Court Judge assessing him in damages and costs for giving a boy (it was alleged) atropine as a headache-powder. In this rehearing Mr. Spanton had the judgment reversed.

### Pharmacy Act, 1868.

#### GROCER SELLS BELLADONNA-PLASTER.

AT the Sheriff Court, Linlithgow, on January 31, James Walker, grocer, Bathgate, was summoned at the instance of Mr. R. Bremridge, Secretary to the Pharmaceutical Society (with the approval of the Procurator Fiscal), for having contravened sections 1 and 15 of the Pharmacy Act in that he, not being a registered chemist and druggist, kept open shop for the sale of poisons, and had through his assistant sold a poison—to wit, belladonna-plaster. Mr. Joseph Tait, Edinburgh, proved the purchase of the plaster, and its poisonous nature was also proved, whereupon the defendant pleaded guilty, explaining that the sale was made in ignorance by his assistant during his absence. The Sheriff imposed a fine of 3*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, including expenses.

### High Court Cases.

#### SACCHARIN CORPORATION v. REITMEYER.

IN the Chancery Division on January 26, Mr. Justice Cozens Hardy heard an application on behalf of the defendants for an order dismissing this action in default of plaintiffs delivering further and better particulars, or, in the alternative, that the plaintiffs should deliver further and better particulars. The action is founded on the importation by the defendants of saccharin. The statement of claim was delivered on January 13, 1898, and the action is founded on twelve patents which the plaintiffs allege the defendants have infringed. Lord Robert Cecil, Q.C., and Mr. A. J. Walter appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. J. C. Graham for the defendants. Mr. Justice Cozens Hardy came to the conclusion that the plaintiffs had not given sufficient particulars, and he therefore ordered them to give further and better particulars.

#### LIEBIG COMPANY'S EXTRACT.

THE case of Liebig's Extract of Meat Company v. Stacy & Co. came before Mr. Justice Buckley, in the Chancery Division, on January 27. This was an action for an injunction to restrain Messrs. Stacy & Co., who carry on business as grocers at three shops in Yarmouth and the neighbourhood, for selling as the plaintiff company's meat-extract an article not of their manufacture.

Mr. H. Terrell, Q.C. (with Mr. Holmes), said the plaintiff company did not challenge the right of anybody to use the word "Liebig," which had been held to apply to extract of meat made according to Baron von Liebig's formula or invention, but they said that the company's goods became known in the market as either "Liebig Company's Extract," or "Liebig Company's Extract of Meat," or "Liebig Company's Extract of Beef," or "The Company's Extract," and they claimed sole right to the use of the word "company" as indicating their manufacture. One of their inspectors, Mr. May, went into the defendants' shop at St. Peter's Road, Yarmouth, in August last, and asked the assistant for a jar of Liebig Company's extract of meat. He purchased two jars at 11½*d.* each, and received with them a bill made out

by the assistant as follows—"Two jars Liebig Company's Extract, 1*s.* 11½*d.*" The jar was the same shape, and the wrappings and wording in blue across the label were made closely to resemble the style of the plaintiff company's goods, but the extract was not that made by the plaintiffs, but was supplied, as the label stated, by the South American Meat Company, London, S.E., which he was told was identical with the Bouillon Company.

Mr. May gave evidence as to the sale, and, in cross-examination, stated that it was false and ridiculous to suggest that he told the assistant to put the name "company" on the bill.

For the defence, Ames, the assistant who served the extract, gave a somewhat different version of the sale, saying that he used the words "They are Liebig's, but not the original."

Mr. Justice Buckley, in giving judgment, said it was common ground that the extract of meat of the plaintiff company was known in some form of words in which the word "company" was used. In the present case the question was whether the extract of meat sold by the defendants' assistant to the plaintiff company's travelling inspector was sold by him as the plaintiff company's extract of meat. He saw no grounds to impute that Mr. May had concocted false evidence. Though he was sorry to have to do in so small a case, the defendants having ordered only eight dozen of this extract for distribution among their three shops, he must grant an injunction, and defendants must pay the costs.

#### EXTRACT-OF-MEAT TRADE-MARK.

IN the Chancery Division on February 1, Mr. Justice Cozens-Hardy heard an application in the matter of a trade-mark (No. 225,206) of the Extract of Meat (Baron Liebig) Photograph Brand. Mr. Muir Mackenzie (for the applicant) said the Extract of Meat (Baron Liebig) Photograph Brand (Limited) appealed from the decision of the Comptroller of Trade-marks refusing to register a trade-mark of the applicant company on the ground that the trade-mark did not come within Section 64, and was not a distinctive device. The company contended that they were not bound to serve notice of this application to Liebig's Extract of Meat Company as ordered by the Board of Trade. The Attorney-General having been heard for the Board of Trade, Mr. Justice Cozens-Hardy refused the motion, with costs, saying that Mr. Muir Mackenzie could serve the Liebig Extract of Meat Company if he chose, and he elected to do so, the company to be made respondents to the motion.

#### COURTENAY'S WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE.

ON January 30 Mr. Justice Kekewich granted Courtenay's Worcestershire Sauce Syndicate an injunction to restrain Mr. Courtenay from disclosing the secret process for the manufacture of Courtenay's Worcestershire Sauce, which he had sold to the Syndicate, and to restrain him from doing anything to deprive the Syndicate of business connected with the manufacture of the sauce. Defendant did not appear.

### Shop-hours Act.

#### A PROSECUTION THAT FAILED.

AT the West Ham Police Court, on January 29, Mr. W. R. Barnes, chemist, Upton Manor, was summoned for having, on December 23 last, employed a lad under the age of 18 for a longer period, during the week ending that date, than is allowed by the Act. Dr. Sanders, Medical Officer of Health, prosecuted on behalf of the local authorities, and Mr. Barnes was represented by Mr. F. W. Beck, solicitor to the Chemists' Defence Association. The first witness for the prosecution was the lad, who in answer to Dr. Sanders, said that his name was Charles Pack, and that he was employed by Mr. Barnes as an errand boy. His age was 18 on December 21.

Dr. Sanders: Next December?

The Witness: No, last December.

Dr. Sanders: Were you 18 on December 21 last?

The Witness: Yes.

Dr. Sanders, addressing Mr. Baggalley, the Magistrate, said that if that were so he would, of course, have to withdraw, but his information was that the lad was under 18.

Mr. Beck handed to the Magistrate the boy's certificate of birth, which proved his statement.



Dr. Sanders said he would call the Inspector, but the Stipendiary Magistrate said that would be of no use, as they could not dispute the certificate.

Mr. Beek asked that the case should be dismissed, and that the defendant be allowed costs. It was, he said, due to Mr. Barnes to point out that if the case had been gone into further, he would have proved that while Mr. Barnes had employed the lad seventy-six hours instead of seventy-four hours per week (the statutory limit), he had allowed the lad two hours each day for dinner and tea. He pointed out that if Mr. Barnes had given the lad half an hour for each of these two meals, instead of an hour, he would have been able to employ him for four hours a week longer.

The Magistrate dismissed the case, but said that he would not allow costs, as the lad was only two days over age.

### Workmen's Compensation Act.

#### HUBBALL *v.* EVERITT & SONS (LIMITED).

THIS was an application before the Court of Appeal on January 29 by employers for an order for security for the costs of a workman's appeal. A point of law had been raised when the case was up for arbitration, and, on the award going in favour of the employers, the County Court Judge had ordered a stay of execution, so that the point of law might be decided by the Court of Appeal. Lord Justices A. L. Smith and Collins dismissed the appeal, treating the case as an exceptional one, the workman being allowed to appeal without giving security.

#### A SCOTCH VIEW.

IN the Court of Session, Edinburgh, on January 25, an appeal was heard against the judgment of Sheriff-Substitute Sym, in a case in which Robert Bee, carter, Leith, claimed compensation from Thomas Ovens & Sons, manufacturers of sulphuric acid and chemical fertilisers, Leith, for injuries received by him on the defenders' premises. He was in the employment of Cowan & Co., with whom the defenders have a carting-contract, and while taking a cart of maize to the hoist in the defenders' factory was crushed between the cart and the wall of the building. The defenders denied liability on the grounds that they did not employ the pursuer, although he was injured "in or about" their factory, and that carting was not an essential part of their work. The Sheriff-Substitute held that the appellants were responsible under the Act, that the case was the same as if the respondent had been in the employment of the appellants, and that the work of putting the material into the mill or giving delivery of the finished article by cart to the customer was a part of the business which they carried on. He awarded the respondent 10s. 6d. per week. Their Lordships affirmed this judgment, with expenses to the respondent.

#### COSGRAVE *v.* THE AMERICAN OIL COMPANY.

ON January 27 Sir Frederick Falkner, Recorder of Dublin, gave judgment in a case brought by a workman named Cosgrave against the American Oil Company, Dublin. The plaintiff had a splinter driven under the nail of one of his fingers, which injured the finger and inflamed the hand. He sued the company to recover damages for the injuries sustained. The Recorder, in giving judgment, said the applicant at the time of the alleged injury was engaged in taking barrels off a pile, in order that they might be brought into a building in the enclosed space belonging to the defendant company, but far removed from the factory in which they were to be painted. He, therefore, dismissed the action as not coming within the Act.

### County Court Case.

#### A TEA-TRANSACTION.

AT Leicester County Court on January 25, Mr. Charles Edward Furnival, chemist and druggist, Leicester, sued H. G. Lamb, traveller, for 7l., the claim being in respect of a quantity of tea sold and delivered. Defendant represented to plaintiff that he knew of some good tea which could be bought cheaply and sold at considerable profit. Defendant

explained that as he was travelling with tea and other commodities of a similar nature, the merchants would not supply the tea to him, so plaintiff allowed the tea to be invoiced to him, on the understanding that defendant had customers for the whole quantity, and that he (plaintiff) would be paid in cash on delivery. Three chests of tea were obtained, and 70 lbs. delivered to the defendant, which had not been paid for. The tea cost 1s. 4d. per lb., and defendant agreed to pay him 1s. 5d. per lb. Plaintiff had sold about 40 lbs. of the tea at 1s. 8d. per lb., but he still had 80 lbs. left on his hands. Judgment was given for plaintiff for 5l. 2s.

#### A SUB-MANAGER'S AUTHORITY.

IN the City of London Court on January 31, before Mr. Registrar Wild, an action was brought by Mr. Charles Sherwood, trading as Chas. Grant & Co., wholesale perfumers, Cotton Street, Australian Avenue, E.C., to recover the balance of an account for liquid ammonia supplied to the defendant, Mr. Chas. Palmer, proprietor of Palmer's Stores, 133 High Street, Walthamstow. The plaintiff's traveller said that he took the order for the goods from the defendant's manager at the Walthamstow shop. The plaintiff paid the carriage on the goods, which he had since seen on the defendant's premises. The defendants disputed the authority of the sub or branch manager to give the order. A representative said that there were ten branch shops, the head place being at Homerton. The man who gave the order was only a sub-manager, and had no authority to give the order sued upon. It was usual for all orders to be sent from headquarters. Mr. Registrar Wild said the difficulty he had to contend with was in determining whether a man who managed a branch business was entitled to hold himself out to the world as a person with authority to give orders in the ordinary course of the business. The onus of proving that the defendant's manager did hold such a position was upon the plaintiff. After hearing evidence, the Registrar said the traveller knew that the person who gave the order was only a manager, and gave judgment for the defendant.

In another case the same plaintiff sued Mr. Williams, 640 Harrow Road, for 2l. 1s. 6d. for perfumery supplied. The order was given on November 7, the goods being for Christmas trade, and they were not delivered until December 16. Plaintiff's traveller told the Registrar that he thought the reason the defendant wanted to repudiate the goods was because he had overbought. The Registrar said he thought the defendant was overloaded. The law gave him the right to repudiate the goods on that ground. Judgment for the defendant, with costs.

## Bankruptcies and Failures.

#### *Re* H. L. DAVIS, Notting Hill, Medicine Vendor.

THE first meeting of creditors was held on January 23. The total liabilities are 14,896l., and the deficiency, 222l. Debtor's difficulties have arisen in connection with his purchase of the Bouverie Press. It was resolved to administer the estate.

#### *Re* A. E. H. CUMBERLAND, late of Blackfriars Road, S.E., Veterinary-medicine Manufacturer.

THIS failure took place last July; liabilities, 2,100l., assets in value, nil. When he applied for his discharge to Mr. Registrar Giffard on Wednesday, it transpired that "Anticuta," for healing wounds in horses and cattle, and "Maté Tea," were the articles in which he had traded. An order of discharge, to be suspended for two years, was granted.

#### *Re* SYDNEY BROWN, 31 Caffyn Street, E.C., Perfumer and Drug-packer.

THIS debtor was examined in the London Court on Wednesday. For full particulars of the failure see *C. & D.*, December 23, 1899, page 1022. In examination, debtor stated that he commenced business in 1864 with 250l. He packed drugs (Gregory's powder, seidlitz powder, &c.) in small quantities for retailers. He drew 300l. a year from the business. Attributed his failure to cutting trade, and early in 1898 found himself in difficulties. His

creditors then extended his credit. He had a patent for charging seltzogenes which was likely to be a success. This concluded the examination.

*Re* ED. HY. COLE, 8 Carlisle Terrace, North Street, late 171 North Street, Leeds, late Chemist and Druggist.

At the first meeting of creditors, held on January 26, at Leeds, no resolutions were passed, and the estate was left to the Official Receiver to administer in the usual way. The cause of insolvency was stated to be "damage done to stock by the bursting of a water-pipe and to sickness." The accounts disclosed liabilities, 95*l.* 17*s.* 11*d.*, and assets estimated at 5*l.*

*Re* HARRY BENTINCK BUDD, Charters Towers, Surrey, formerly Patent-medicine Manufacturer.

At the Tunbridge Wells Bankruptcy Court on January 24, formal application was made for the annulment of this debtor's receiving order, on the ground that all the liabilities to creditors had been now fully discharged. The solicitor for the trustees agreed to the application, and counsel for the creditors did not oppose it, so the order asked for was made.

*Re* WILLIAM PROUDFOOT, 51 Elderslie Street, Glasgow, Chemist.

A TRUST-DEED has been signed by this debtor. Claims to be sent to Mr. M. Mitchell, chartered accountant, 59 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow. The statement of affairs shows liabilities 273*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* and assets amounting to 81*l.* 13*s.* 10*d.* (less preferential claims for rent, rates, and taxes, 24*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*). The following are creditors of 2*l.* and upwards:—

|  | £  | s. | d. |
|--|----|----|----|
| British and Foreign Mineral-water Company... | 7  | 0  | 0  |
| Brown, Gray & Co., Glasgow...                | 9  | 19 | 9  |
| Cameron, James, Glasgow...                   | 3  | 0  | 0  |
| Currie Brothers, Glasgow...                  | 2  | 0  | 0  |
| Erber, H. & Co., Manchester...               | 4  | 10 | 0  |
| Garfitt, James, Manchester...                | 10 | 0  | 0  |
| Glasgow Apothecaries' Company, Glasgow...    | 31 | 7  | 0  |
| Lees, R. W., & Co., Glasgow...               | 9  | 0  | 0  |
| Lorimer & Moyes, Glasgow...                  | 5  | 0  | 0  |
| Mann, Summers & Co., Glasgow...              | 2  | 0  | 0  |
| Munro, McLaren & Co., Glasgow...             | 6  | 1  | 9  |
| Pinkerton, Gibson & Co., Edinburgh...        | 46 | 0  | 0  |
| Proudfoot, Wm., sen., Glasgow...             | 16 | 0  | 0  |
| Stephen, Dr., Glasgow...                     | 62 | 7  | 0  |
| Taylor, James, Glasgow...                    | 22 | 19 | 0  |

*Re* JOHN TOWNSEND TRENCH, Dublin, Patent-medicine Manufacturer.

In the Court of Bankruptcy at Dublin last week, this bankrupt came before Mr. Justice Boyd and a jury. The charge of the Official Assignees showed that bankrupt had carried on business as the manufacturer of "Trench's Medical Remedy" at South Frederick Street, Dublin, until 1898. The points involved were that when Trench became insolvent, Messrs. Hardman, solicitors, took all the insolvent's property, sold it, and applied the proceeds to paying their own debts and those of their intimates, and left nothing for the other creditors, and had improperly sold the assets to the company formed to develop "Trench's Medical Remedy."

The greater part of the proceedings were taken up with arguments about irregularities in procedure by solicitors for the chargeants and dischargeants, and the hearing of the case was ultimately adjourned.

## Gazette.

### Partnerships Dissolved.

**Farrant, Samuel, and Winckworth, Wadham Bruce,** Taunton, Somerset, surgeons.

**Nichols, W. T., and Schütte, J. G.,** under the style of J. G. Schütte & Nichols, Idol Lane, E.C., manufacturers of artificial musk.

### Irish Bankrupt.

*Re* PARKER & SON, Dominick Street, Galway, Chemists.

MRS. JANE PARKER, trading as above, was adjudicated bankrupt on January 20. The public examination will be held at Dublin on February 13 and March 2.

## Deeds of Arrangement.

**Mather, Elizabeth** (spinster), trading as "Thomas Kilner," the Tolley Chemical-works, and residing at Victoria Road, Tolley, chemical-manufacturer. Trustee, Thomas C. Parkin, Bank Street, Sheffield, C.A. Secured creditors, 1,775*l.* Dated, January 18; filed, January 24. Liabilities unsecured, 1,242*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*; estimated net assets, 106*l.*

**Pritchard, Richard William,** trading as "The Star Perfumery Company," 17 Devonshire Square, City, and residing at 125 Upper Street, Islington, Wholesale Perfumer. Trustee, Duncan D. Robertson, St. Lawrence House, Trump Street, City, Accountant. Dated, January 22; filed January 26. Liabilities unsecured, 520*l.* 17*s.* 9*d.*; estimated net assets, 300*l.* The following are scheduled as creditors:—

|   | £  | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|----|
| Feix Brothers, Gablonz ...                              | 13 | 0  | 0  |
| Fritzche, F., & Co., Hamburg ...                        | 22 | 0  | 0  |
| Greiner & Co., London ...                               | 76 | 0  | 0  |
| Hearns (Limited), London ...                            | 35 | 0  | 0  |
| Jones, Lang & Co., London ...                           | 21 | 0  | 0  |
| Le de Beaune, Paris ...                                 | 13 | 0  | 0  |
| Merv, J., & Boyveau, Grasse ...                         | 26 | 0  | 0  |
| New Hydroleine Company (Limited), Ashby-de-la-Zouch ... | 37 | 0  | 0  |
| Sutton, Carden & Co., London ...                        | 69 | 0  | 0  |
| Ullmann, J., Dessendorf ...                             | 28 | 0  | 0  |
| Waller, F., & Co., London ...                           | 95 | 0  | 0  |
| Wedekind & Co., London... ..                            | 11 | 0  | 0  |

## New Companies & Company News.

**CHINA RAILWAY AND MINING CORPORATION (LIMITED)** (capital 100,000, in 1*l.* shares) has amongst its objects dealing in drugs, dyes, nitrates, oils, &c. Registered office, 23 Budge Row, E.C.

**WYARD & TAYLOR (LIMITED).**—Capital 5,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire the mineral-water business of "Wyrd & Taylor," at Romford, Essex. Registered office, Angel Yard, High Street, Romford, Essex.

**LONGSTRETH'S (LIMITED).**—Capital 3,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of electricians, electrical-instrument-makers, electrical, gas, and general engineers, lamp-makers, manufacturing chemists, &c.

**F. G. COMER & Co. (LIMITED).**—Capital 3,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares (1,000 preference). Objects: To carry on the businesses of crushing, grinding, manufacturing and dealing in corn, seeds, salts, oils, condimental and other foods and medicines for horses and other animals, &c.

**S. CLABER & Co. (LIMITED).**—Capital 5,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of oil and colourmen, perfumers, perfume manufacturers and merchants, soap-manufacturers, &c. The first directors are S. Claber, H. Tattersall, and F. Heap. Qualification, one share. Registered office, 34 Faulkner Street, Manchester.

**BILTCLIFFE DENTAL COMPANY (LIMITED).**—Capital 500*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To take over the business of C. S. Biltcliffe, dentist, &c., of Dewsbury and elsewhere in Yorkshire. The subscribers are:—E. Brooke, Haroldene, Teignmouth, traveller; A. E. Whalley, dentist's assistant; Miss S. J. S. Biltcliffe, Miss J. Biltcliffe, and C. H. Elshaw, dentist's assistant, all of 54 Bradford Road, Dewsbury; Mrs. B. Swallow, Cemetery Road, Dewsbury; and Charlotte Elshaw, 3 Bilton Place, Bradford. Registered office, 54 Bradford Road, Dewsbury.

**SUGDEN'S (LIMITED).**—Capital 1,250*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire and carry on the businesses of manufacturing, wholesale and retail chemists and druggists. The first subscribers are:—Mrs. Sara Sugden, Newchurch, widow; Miss F. E. Head, Shawforth, near Rochdale; Miss S. Sugden, Newchurch; Miss M. F. Jones, Crawshawbooth, near Rawtenstall; Ebenezer Sugden, M.B., C.M., 333 Halifax Road, Rochdale; John Head, Millgate, Shawforth, chemist; Samuel Sugden, Newchurch, medical practitioner; William Allen Sugden, 97 The Grove, Ealing, W. chemist. Registered office, 689 Bacup Road, Waterfoot, Lanes.

**VIROL (LIMITED).**—Capital 75,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire from "Bovril (Limited)" certain patents relating to the treatment of animal fats, and to take over the business of manufacturing and selling "Virol," "Virol Sans Sucre," and "Marrol." The first directors are B. S. Strauss, W. E. Lawson-Johnston, A. E. Canney, and A. Searl. Bovril (Limited) may appoint one or two directors so long as they hold 10,000 or 20,000 shares, as the case may be. Qualification of other directors, 400*l.* Remuneration, 105*l.* each per annum (157*l.* 10*s.* for the chairman), or more, according to profits. Registered office, 152-166 Old Street, E.C.



**OMEGA (LIMITED).**—Capital 5,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire the sole agency for the sale in the U.K. of "Omega Oil," and to carry on the business of chemists, druggists, &c. The subscribers are:—J. Foot and R. J. Foot, 171 New Bond Street, W., manufacturers; T. Smith, newspaper proprietor, and P. T. N. Smith, advertising agent, 132 Fleet Street, E.C.; J. I. Jones, 88 Addison Gardens, W., managing salesman; T. G. Moss, 46 St. Alban's Crescent, Wood Green, N., accountant; and W. J. Nichols, 10 Parliament Hill, Hampstead, N.W., gentleman. The first directors are J. Foot, R. J. Foot, T. Smith, and P. T. N. Smith. Qualification, 200*l.* Remuneration, 250*l.* per annum, divisible.

**FISHER & CO., NORWICH (LIMITED).**—Capital 5,000*l.*, in 10*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire the business carried on at Calvert Street, Norwich, and to carry on that of wholesale and retail druggists, makers of and dealers in pharmaceutical, chemical, and other preparations, &c. The first subscribers are:—Mrs. E. Fisher, H. H. Fisher, gentleman, R. Fisher, baking-powder manufacturer, and Miss M. J. Fisher, all of Park Lane, Norwich; Mrs. F. E. Forster, St. George's Street, Norwich; Mrs. E. Newton, Litcham, Norwich; and John W. C. Daynes, Opie House Chambers, Castle Meadow, Norwich, solicitor. The first directors are R. Fisher, H. H. Fisher, and J. W. C. Daynes. R. Fisher is the governing director, and may retain office so long as he holds 1,000*l.* shares.

**DR. SOULE'S HOP BITTERINE (LIMITED).**—Capital 4,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire the business carried on at 35 Theobalds Road, London, and elsewhere, as "The Hop Bitters Company," to adopt agreements (1) with B. Newgass and (2) with A. Roberts, and to manufacture and deal in "Dr. Soule's Hop Bitters" and medicinal and other preparations and proprietary articles. The subscribers are:—V. Manelsdorf, 59 Parliament Hill, N.W., gentleman; J. Davenport, 1 Milton Street, Watford, Herts, gentleman; G. H. Simpson, 35 Dalebury Road, Upper Tooting, clerk; A. Howell, Belmont, Sydenham Hill, Kent, gentleman; A. A. Roberts, 7 John Street, W.C., analytical chemist; W. J. W. Edmunds, 274 Ladbrooke Grove, North Kensington, W., clerk; and F. S. Franklin, 4 Bank Buildings, Hornsey, clerk. The first directors are A. Howell, V. Manelsdorf, and A. Roberts. No remuneration.

**THE COMPAGNIE VIMBOS FRANCO-BELGE (LIMITED).** of 61 Gracechurch Street, announce a first and final dividend of 20*s.* any day (except Saturday) at the Official Receiver's, 33 Carey Street, Lincoln's Inn, W.C.

**CAMWAL (LIMITED).**—Letters of allotment to the shareholders in this reconstructed company were posted on Monday. We understand that the capital was considerably over-subscribed, and that the debenture-holders in the old company applied for all the debentures in the new one. In connection with the criticism of the *Financial News* we are informed by the secretary that the *News* understated the profits of the company to the extent of 1,695*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*, which makes all the difference, for that was the sum that paid the interest on debentures and mortgage, and will more than pay the debentures of the new company.

**BOVRIL (LIMITED).**—The report of the directors of this company for 1899, to be presented at the annual meeting on February 9, states that the net profit amounts to 125,557*l.*, which, with the balance from last account, makes 127,331*l.* The directors have paid the debenture-interest of 4½ per cent. per annum, amounting to 11,250*l.*; the balance of debenture-interest, 11,250*l.*; interim dividend on preference shares of 5½ per cent., 13,750*l.*; and interim dividend on ordinary shares of 7 per cent., 26,250*l.* The directors now propose to pay the balance dividend of 5½ per cent. per annum upon the preference shares, 13,750*l.*; balance dividend of 7 per cent. on the ordinary shares, 26,250*l.*; and further recommend a dividend of 2 per cent. per annum upon the deferred shares, 15,000*l.*, leaving to be carried to reserve 7,500*l.*, and to be carried forward 2,331*l.* The sales of Bovril and specialties have exceeded all previous records.

**MAYPOLE COMPANY (1899) (LIMITED).**—The first statutory meeting of the shareholders of the reconstructed company was held at the Holborn Restaurant on January 29, Mr. W. Black (Chairman of the company) presiding. The proceedings were of a formal character, but the Chairman, in the course of his speech, said some 646 shareholders the old company had taken up shares in the new concern. The whole of the debentures in the old company had been discharged by the issue to the debenture-holders of first mortgage debentures in the new company. The

company has been doing a reasonable amount of trade, at fair profits. Negotiations are pending between the company and a New York firm, with a view to a company being formed in New York to take over the business and goodwill of the company in America. Captain Tudor, R.N., inquired whether the company had a new board and a new manager. The Chairman replied that the company had no manager at present, and the present board consisted of Messrs. W. Black, A. C. Burnley, and H. Waller, by whom the affairs of the company were being managed.

**BORAX CONSOLIDATED (LIMITED).**—The second ordinary general meeting was held on January 29 at Winchester House. Sir A. Wilson, presided, and in moving the adoption of the report (see *C. & D.*, January 27, page 176) referred to the very satisfactory results of the year's trading, which were accounted for by the consolidation of the various businesses and by economies effected in the mines and factories. During the year, the chairman explained, the company had acquired certain other mines and deposits, and a temporary loan had been arranged pending the issue of debenture stock reserved for that purpose. The directors had no doubt whatever that they were in possession of magnificent properties, containing practically unlimited quantities of borate of lime. Their contracts for the supply of crude material now included the largest and nearly the whole of the refiners of borax and boric acid in the world. The demand for borate of lime to supply these refiners and their own works had fully absorbed the shipments made from the mines, and the demand for the refined products had taxed all the works to the full capacity. The Chairman concluded by referring to the many and increasing uses of borax for industrial purposes, instancing that iron enamellers now absorb as much as a thousand tons per annum for the production of the enamel. Another large demand had sprung up with potters who, according to the requirements of the Government, had now to use a leadless glaze, and for this purpose borax is required in larger proportion. The report, paying a dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 25*s.* per share, was adopted.

The *Financial Times* of January 27 devotes a column of criticism to "Bovril and its Baby"—the latter being, of course, the latest Bovril development, Virol (Limited), the registration of which is already noted.

## Trade Notes.

**NEWSHOLME'S ANTISEPTIC INHALER**, referred to in this section last week, may be obtained through Messrs. F. Newbery & Sons, Charterhouse Square, E.C.

**FREE PERFUMES.**—The Erasmic Company (Limited) are giving away free samples of their perfume to customers who collect a certain number of their soap-wrappers. Special terms are offered to the trade to meet the demand for these perfumes, particulars of which will be found by reference to our advertising columns.

**MESSRS. J. GROSSMITH & CO.**, wholesale perfumers, Newgate Street, E.C., with a view to prevent the excessive "cutting" of their specialties, "Phil-Namā," "Hasu-no-Hana," "Victorian Bouquet," "Betrothal Bouquet," "Verus Nature," and "Florodora," intimate that on and after March 1 next they will not supply any customer who continues to sell any of these articles at less than 2*s.* for the 2*s.* 6*d.*, 4*s.* for the 5*s.*, and 8*s.* for the 10*s.* size.

**A RISE IN BOTTLES.**—At a meeting of the London glass-bottle manufacturers, held on January 29, it was unanimously agreed, owing to the greatly increased cost of production, to advance prices 5 per cent. on and after February 5.—Hearns (Limited), Lea Bridge, Clapton, N.E., intimate that they are compelled to raise the prices of vials and poison-bottles 10 per cent., and they will forward quotations for other kinds of bottles on application.

**WINES AND SPIRITS.**—Holloway's Wine Company (Limited), 61 New Oxford Street, W.C., have recently added the sale of spirits to their wine-business. The firm is evidently prospering, as they have lately taken in additional cellage and two new offices adjoining their original

premises. Samples of their new price-lists, with customers' names printed thereon, can be had on application. The registered telegraphic address of the firm is "Spillikins London."

MESSRS. WILCOX & Co., 83 Mortimer Street, W., have taken up the agency of two more French specialities, and they have been circularising medical men in regard to them. One is Kola Astier, a sweet granular preparation which dissolves readily in water or wine, and has a remarkably exhilarating effect on the system. The other is Pierlot's valerianate of ammonia, an elixir used for various complaints of women. It is an agreeable preparation, and galenically excellent.

THE ADVANCE IN RUBBER.—A correction, which arrived too late for insertion, in the advertisement of Messrs. Lynch & Co. (Limited), Aldersgate Street, E.C., in last week's issue, slightly alters the reading in reference to indiarubber water-bottles. Instead of "No advance" being made in the price of these articles, an advance of 5 per cent. should have been notified. This is occasioned by the increase in cost of the raw material, but Messrs. Lynch intimate that no uniform advance will be made. Each article will be dealt with on its own merits, and they will make reductions and revert to old prices as soon as opportunity arises.

THE SEED-SEASON is upon us, and druggists who work this sideline should be getting the space ready for display of samples. We are reminded of this by the receipt of a wholesale price-list from Messrs. Potter & Clarke, Artillery Lane, E., who do the thing well in regard to prices and quality. They make a speciality of packet flower and garden seeds. These are put up attractively. The firm offer some novelties this spring, and blocks to illustrate circulars. It will be worth the while of our subscribers to write for particulars.

A HEADACHE-CURE.—Should anyone happen to be suffering from "neuralgic pains of the rami supra-orbitales of the two trigemini" they might do worse, we are informed, than try the "Migrainator," a patent apparatus sold in this country by the French Hygienic Society (Limited), 6 Conduit Street, Regent Street, W. If it is only a neuralgic headache (without the trimmings) a like cure may be obtained, and that without medication. The "Migrainator" is a simple contrivance consisting of two semi-circular steel springs, overlapping each other, with a velvet pad at the end of each. The pads are placed one on each temple, and the springs adjusted round the back of the head, the pressure on the temples being sufficient in many cases to relieve the pain.

MESSRS. EVANS, GADD & Co.'s new price-list of chemicals, drugs and galenicals, is rather good for careful buyers, as the right-hand half of each page is reserved for "notes" such as these:—

| Name                    | Price        | Notes                                     |
|-------------------------|--------------|---|
|                         | <i>s. d.</i> |   |
| Bals. Canadens. ... lb. | 1 10         | Official name, Canada turpentine          |
| Baptisin ... .. oz.     | 3 0          | Powdered extract of Baptisia tinctoria    |
| Barii chlorid. ... lb.  | 0 5          | Dose, $\frac{1}{10}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. |

A postcard to their Exeter address will bring a copy of, the list to any chemist.

## Birth.

Notices under this Section are charged 2s. 6d. each.

DENWOOD.—At 205 Old Hall Road, Brampton, Chesterfield, on January 24, 1900, the wife of Mr. G. D. Denwood, chemist and druggist, Sheffield, of a daughter.

GERMAN MANUFACTURERS OF SURGICAL DRESSINGS have decided to raise their prices by 10 per cent.

## Marriages.

ASHFORD—WAGNER.—At Trinity Church, S.E., on January 29, Frederick Charles, eldest son of Mr. Evan C. Ashford, chemist and druggist, Northampton, to Bertha, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Charles Wagner, of London.

HEMENS—OOSTHUISEN.—On December 20, 1899, at the Dutch Reformed Church, Willowmore, Cape Colony, Wilfred Frank Hemens, chemist and druggist, to Kitty, niece of Mr. O. A. Oosthuisen, M.L.A.

## Deaths.

BATES.—On January 19, Mr. Wm. Isaac Bates, chemist and druggist, Macclesfield. Aged 77. Mr. Bates carried on for many years the well-known business at Mill Street, Macclesfield. He retired from commercial life ten years ago. Mr. Bates was for over half a century a prominent Freemason, and was twice W.M. of the Lodge of Unity 267. He was one of the oldest Governors of the Industrial Schools.

BUNKER.—On January 19, Mr. James Bunker, chemist and druggist, Dalston. Aged 65. For some time past Mr. Bunker had carried on business in Greenwood Road, and retained up to the time of his death the appointment of Registrar of Marriages for Hackney. For a considerable time, also, he controlled the local post-office. He was well known amongst Freemasons, having been "W. M." of the "Southern Star" in 1887, and he had occupied various positions in Royal Arch Masonry. He was a life governor of all the Masonic Benevolent Institutions. Mr. Bunker, who was a native of Todington, Bedfordshire, came to London at the age of 23, but afterwards returned to the town of Bedford, where he was for some time dispenser at the infirmary. Subsequently he entered the Civil Service, and, in 1875, went to Dalston. In 1882 he was appointed dispenser at the Hackney Infirmary, an office which he resigned in September last upon a superannuation allowance, after having occupied the position for seventeen years.

CHALMERS.—At Kelt, Fife, on January 24, James Hutcheon, infant son of Mr. James Chalmers, chemist and druggist.

GUNNING.—Dr. Jan Willem Gunning, professor of chemistry at the University of Amsterdam, has just died in that city. He was born in 1827 at Vlaardingen, and was appointed professor of chemistry at the University in 1877.

KINNEAR.—At Earlsferry, on January 22, Mr. James Arthur Kinnear, chemist and druggist, late of Dundee.

LOVELY.—There died last week at Hammersmith, aged 92, Mrs. William Lovely, who had three sons (A. J., Herbert, and Ernest), pharmacists, also a grandson (in West Australia), and two sons-in-law (Mr. W. P. Parry, of B. Hooper & Co., is one of them). Several of Mrs. Lovely's grandsons are doctors.

SMITH.—On January 19, Mr. William Smith, chemist and druggist, Bolton. Aged 46. Deceased was until recently in business in Halliwell Road, and died, after one day's illness, from pneumonia.

SUMNER.—On January 24, at Grantham, Mr. Benjamin Tindale Sumner, chemist and druggist. Mr. Sumner had been ailing for about ten days from influenza.

TAYLOR.—On January 21, Mr. Thomas Taylor, senior partner of the firm of Messrs. T. & F. J. Taylor, chemists and mineral-water manufacturers, Newport Pagnell. Mr. Taylor was a Justice of the Peace, an Alderman of Bucks County Council, and a member of Newport Pagnell Urban District Council.

WOODHEAD.—On January 24, Mr. Godfrey Woodhead, of G. Woodhead & Sons, chemical manufacturers, Slaithwaite. Aged 68.





TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Please write clearly and concisely on one side of the paper only. All communications should be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers. If queries are submitted, each should be written on a separate piece of paper. We do not reply to queries by post, and can only answer on subjects of general interest.

#### The B.P. as a Standard.

##### Correction.

*C. & D.*, January 27, 1900, page 126, column 1, line 22 from bottom,

for December, 1898, read December, 1888.

Ashlands, Watford, Herts.

JOHN ATTFIELD.

January 27.

[The fault is ours.—Ed.]

SIR,—The recent discussions with regard to the authority of the Pharmacopœia seem to me to be of academic rather than commercial interest. Practically we all use the book as a standard when making or buying, and to quibble about its authority when selling is worthy rather of a special pleader than of an honourable trader. Far better acknowledge an error than adopt a defence which is likely to blast the reputation of the individual concerned, and to do more damage to pharmacists generally than all the cheap sneers of misguided novelists. I am quite aware that some of the requirements of the Pharmacopœia are practically unattainable commercially, but even analysts are amenable to reason, and if these points were brought under their notice they would soon cease to insist upon them.

Yours faithfully,

Exeter, January 24.

H. WIPPELL GADD.

#### Excretion of Morphine.

SIR,—Morphine, whether given hypodermically or by the mouth, ultimately, of course, gets into the blood. From the blood the greater part of it is excreted unchanged into the stomach and bowels, and is found in the feces (probably a part of this may be reabsorbed). Small amounts of unchanged morphine are sometimes found in the urine, sometimes not. Oxydimorphine has been described as occurring in the urine, but it is a doubtful point. Decomposition products, however, are almost certainly present, although they have not been isolated and described.

Yours truly,

Glasgow, January 24.

RALPH STOCKMAN.

SIR,—In reply to Dr. McWalter's letter concerning the above question I can only state that the majority of authorities hold morphine to be excreted for the most part unchanged. Binz, for instance, considers that some small portion may be oxidised in the body, but that most of it passes through the alimentary tract unaltered, the alkaloid absorbed from it in the first place being excreted again, or, if primarily given through the skin, passing into the canal. He holds that the feces are the main vehicle of excretion. Mitchell Bruce says that the alkaloid is excreted by all the secretions to a greater or less extent. The question as to the formation of derivatives like oxydimorphine in the body is so uncertain, and is supported by so few observations which can be depended upon, that at present in a general statement such as the one Dr. McWalter refers to the conclusion that morphine is excreted as morphine is permissible.

I am, &c.,

Edinburgh, January 29.

A. LOCKHART GILLESPIE.

#### The Pharmacopœial Standard of Eucalyptus Oil.

SIR,—Much dissatisfaction has been expressed in several quarters at the practical results which followed on the introduction of the new standard for eucalyptus oil in the 1898 Pharmacopœia. No doubt the object aimed at by those responsible for the new standard was the exclusion from commerce for medicinal purposes of oils of the

Amygdalina type, an object for which ample justification exists. Taken as a whole the standard is perfectly satisfactory, with the exception of the sp. gr. Since the publication of the new Pharmacopœia I have examined a very large number of samples, mostly dock samples, representing many hundreds of cases of this oil, and I have found them to fall into three classes—first, those of the Amygdalina type, of low sp. gr., high optical rotation; and containing much phellandrene; secondly, those which correspond entirely with the requirements of the B.P.; and, thirdly, oils which correspond with all the requirements except the sp. gr., which varies between 0.905 and 0.910. It is this last class of oil—and I have had numerous samples of such—which, in my opinion, ought not to be excluded from the Pharmacopœia, and such exclusion has been keenly felt by many of the importers. There are plenty of oils containing no phellandrene (or not sufficient to answer to the B.P. test), which are optically active to the extent of  $+8^{\circ}$  to  $-8^{\circ}$ , and contain from 45 to 50 per cent. of cineol, but which are excluded on account of their sp. gr., which is from 0.905 to 0.910.

Messrs. Baker and Smith have advocated very radical changes in the pharmacopœial standard, but with many of their conclusions I do not agree. The only desirable alteration, in my opinion, is that the sp. gr. should be made 0.905 to 0.930. Baker and Smith would reduce the upper limit to 0.925, but would prefer the omission of sp. gr. altogether. They would also omit the rotation and the phellandrene-test, but I think they fall into error by considering each test separately. For example, they say (*Chemist and Druggist of Australasia*, xiv., 10): "The relation is of little value, as levorotatory eucalyptus oils exceeding the standard fixed by the Pharmacopœia can be brought within the requirements by judicious addition of a dextrorotatory eucalyptus oil." While this is of course true, in the event of the resulting mixture answering all the tests of the Pharmacopœia, there is no objection to such mixture—which, indeed, takes place frequently, either in Australia or in London, whenever a parcel is found to be just outside the limits. But if the oil were far outside the optical rotation of the B.P., it could not contain sufficient cineol to answer the phosphoric-acid test, and admixture with a dextrorotatory oil would probably not bring it up to the standard required. If it did, no harm would be done, as the resulting mixed oil would contain enough cineol to satisfy the B.P. test and no phellandrene. The qualitative estimation of the cineol is, of course, desirable. Possibly however, it would be as well to wait for a method still more accurate than the phosphoric-acid process.

Yours faithfully,

Upper Thames Street, E.C.,

January 29.

ERNEST J. PARRY.

#### Chemists and Fictionists.

SIR,—Pharmacists disparaged by authors searching for fresh fields across which genius may wander at will should open their dictionaries, in order to derive consolation from the fact that fiction is there clearly stated to be "falsehood," and a fictionist the writer of things "counterfeit"—"not genuine." Why therefore, need pharmacists take to heart any falsehood fiction utters concerning them?

Like many other folk fictionists have to earn their living, and if, by libelling a class who, while maintaining themselves honourably, serve their fellow-creatures, they make a few pounds, perhaps they ought not to be judged too harshly. The temptation is great, because modern taste prefers sensation to truth. After a time the tide may turn, and truth be preferred to sensation once again.

Meanwhile, pharmacists would do well to regard this new trouble as "a passing wave," which will be succeeded ere long by other "passing waves" unlikely to concern them.

After all, it is the nature of their occupation which has proved such a temptation. Pharmacy flings a window wide open to imagination. Its possibilities are many, and fictionists have seized on a few of them. It might be within the power of some author versed in the lore of human nature to draw a pathetic picture of an over-weighted, capable, conscientious pharmacist, spending the best years of his life in weighing grains and measuring fluids, and meeting with no sufficient reward, but it would be difficult to make such a drawing picturesque; whereas,

when imagination takes the brush in hand to paint the same individual from a different point of view—viz., as he might be, not as he is—a travesty results which coarsely caricatures the original.

Most subjects are now treated in this manner. Nature herself, as she appears to an ordinary onlooker, is not considered good enough. Her sweet simplicity must be re-created and decked out with the newest phrases. Most "up-to-date" writers try to "go one better" when speaking of our dear old Mother.

In a comparatively recent novel, "the stream grumbles to its banks"; in another we are invited to contemplate "mauve mists" and "pure fallows"; while a third, in a burst of even wilder eloquence, tells us of "clouds getting red from racing across the sky."

This appears to be the mental food modern readers like; at all events, it is what modern fictionists provide for them.

Statements, also, as well as descriptions, are sometimes slightly incorrect. For example, the following amazing sentence is taken from a novel which a few years ago passed through the usual number of large editions:—"... had brought a big boiled shrimp in his pocket. It was black."

Shall pharmacists, then, object to be gibbeted with Nature and hard facts? Ought they not, rather, to rejoice at being permitted to suffer in such good company?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

A FICTIONIST. (242/47.)

SIR,—I have read with much interest the letters Mr. James Reid has sent you regarding the treatment chemists receive at the hands of some writers of fiction. I fear there is no legal remedy against this abuse, however much we may deplore it. Conan Doyle and other writers just take their cue from the public mind, which is saturated with the idea that chemists have exorbitant profits. The responsibilities connected with the handling of medicines seem to have no account with the public. But this prejudice against chemists is traceable to the conduct of chemists themselves. Cutting-stores, grocers, and other poachers do not do us the harm in the public eyes that black sheep in our own ranks do. I have before me now an advertising-pamphlet, published by a pharmaceutical chemist, in which the announcement is made, "We do not charge for the water when making mixtures, only for the drugs, and thereby our customers save 50 or 60 per cent." I will let this extract speak for itself. Here is another way our business is dragged in the mud. Another chemist, not in a back street, advertises thus: "Our cod-liver oil is recognised by the medical authorities, &c., and this year, to stimulate the sale of our cod-liver oil, we will attach one coupon to one bottle of oil, which coupon will entitle the holder to a gentleman's gold-cased watch." Comment, again, is needless. How can we expect the public to have a respect for us as honourable professional men if we lower ourselves to such mean ways of doing business? I would ask men who are tempted to do the like to read Galatians v. 14, 15. But to come back to Mr. Reid's letter. I think we should not take too seriously what the present-day fictionists write about us. And they are not all alike.

I wish to point out an author to "Xrayser," Mr. Reid, and all chemists—Mr. James Patey—who has written a story in the November number of *Chambers's Journal*, which I think will do good for our calling. "Tregavis the Chemist" is the title, and he is a hero indeed, whose experience should cause a sympathetic sigh for the poor chemists from all who read the story.

Yours, &c.,

Dundee, January 24.

CHARLES KERR.

SIR,—I have been much interested in the correspondence concerning "The Chemist in Fiction," especially so in that contributed by that able and interesting writer, Mr. Reid. I am not of the number who consider Mr. Reid is disquieting himself in vain, because I fear the chemist's dignity has not yet reached that point which admits of him smiling at ignorant attacks by fictionists and others. It is a pleasure to be able to direct attention to an exception. In that remarkable book of short stories by Mr. Wedmore, the chief story is called "The Chemist in the Suburbs." From an appreciative reference to the book by Mr. W. J. Dawson I quote the following:—

The chemist in the suburbs knew Love once, and knew in the

same moment that it was not for him. He quickly renounced it, and retired to a little shop in Islington. He had lost the main interest in life; but he still had interests, and these he fostered and made sources of pleasure. He cared for art, for fine china; he had a delicate appreciation of beautiful things, and, as far as he could, gathered such things around him. He made no complaint: he simply accepted his defeat with courage, and collected his forces that he might suffer and endure with dignity.

Of Mr. Wedmore Mr. Dawson says:—"He writes with a delicate and delightful touch which makes his work memorable, and gives it a distinct place among the work of the new writers."

I am, &c.,

Edinburgh.

SAUGHTON. (248/58.)

#### How to Make Solutions.

SIR,—I was taught this by a very simple incident. Three lumps of sugar were put into my breakfast-cup of coffee. One fell to the bottom of the cup, two rested on the bit of china which distinguishes it as a "moustache-cup." I slightly stirred the coffee, and was just about to knock in the two lumps, having watched for about a minute the gradual ascent of the coffee to the apices of the sugar, when a ring at the door (I then never had a meal without that music) caused me to drop the spoon. On my return the two lumps were gone; the one was still a lump recognised by its triangular shape. I meditated for a while, and, having then some tr. benz. co. to make, finally evolved this method. I caused a small muslin bag to be made just large enough to go into a wide-mouthed Corbyn quart, and to hold easily the roughly-powdered gums, &c. A bit of string tied loosely round the mouth of the bag and passed through the cork completed this very simple but effective apparatus. When the solvent is added, wait an hour and then draw up the bag by the string, and repeat this at intervals of one or two hours as may be judged requisite. In this way I have made this week 20 oz. tr. myrrh. (in ten hours), 40 oz. tr. benz. co. (in twelve hours), 1 gal. of camphor liniment (in four hours), and previously solutions of all sorts, from that of gum acacia, so thick that it would scarcely run, to simple syrup and syrupus scillæ—no warming, no shaking, no stirring, no filtering required. Even haust. nig. may be thus prepared. The bags which bring me 7 lbs. or 14 lbs. pulv. anlyl are good material to cut up for this purpose.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

East Dulwich, January 22.

G. E. BURT.

[Squire's infusion-pot over again; but the bag idea is an old one. The late Professor Redwood was strong on it as an aid to maceration. Mr. Burt's note will help to bring the fact home to those who have not thought of it.—Ed.]

#### Prescribing by Advertisement.

SIR,—You have in last week's issue of the *C. & D.* dealt with the above subject with your usual trenchancy. I believe that in raising this question just now you have opened to the drug-trade a subject which is at last about to be brought prominently before the public. I do not know how it has escaped general attention so long. Quite recently the chairman of an important and influential board spoke at considerable length regarding the evils resulting from the general use of quack medicines, and medical men all over the country have for a long time complained that people dose themselves to such an extent with quack pills and other purgatives of a like nature that when genuine medical assistance is required it is found that the bowels will only respond to such drastic purgatives as eroton oil. I believe that a great many people shorten their days, or bring ill-health on themselves, by the ignorant use of advertised medicines. Of course, we know that a great many genuine and valuable articles appear on the pages of a patent-medicine list, but there can be no doubt whatever that a very large percentage of advertised medicines either contain ingredients of no value, or else well-known drugs which ought to be used only under medical advice or at times when they are urgently necessary. Not long ago a prominent store manager said that no drug-business had been successful the management of which was left in the hands of qualified men entirely; but this man builds his idea of success upon a false base altogether. Success in pharmacy, according to the Pharmacy Act, is based on the amount of good done to the human race. It is the mission of pharmacy to assist in the alleviation of suffering and the fight against disease and death, and when



pharmacy is most successful in this she has as far as possible discharged her mission to the world. The idea that pharmaceutical success is based on the magnitude of dividends is as offensive and as contemptible as the men who hold it. This teaching will be met by all stores men, and by many chemists, with derision. It will be said, "Yes, this is the ideal, no doubt; but who comes up to it?" The same might be said of all other professions. The Church, law, medicine, art are all at times prostituted to mere money-making, but that fact does not alter the high principle upon which these professions are founded. With all their faults and failings chemists have still a fairly clean vision of their duty to the world, and it is against this moral and honourable view that store-men hurl their accusations. They speak of training us up to their degrading manner of doing business, being ignorant all the time of the fact that what they are pleased to call unbusiness-like methods are really professional methods systematically cultivated in the interests of the human race. With these men, business methods consist in cramming medicines down people's throats whether they want them or not. Such methods, I firmly believe, lead to more deaths in this country in one year than would result from an epidemic of small-pox. It is to be regretted that the most credulous classes are not always the poorer classes. A prominent advertiser once told me that advertisements in the religious papers paid best. It is not long since *Truth* published some information about the origin of "testimonials" circulated by some quacks, which ought to be more widely known. [See *C. & D.*, December 30, 1899, page 1069.] It is pitiful to see a poor woman counting out in coppers the price of a patent medicine, which one knows to be of no value to her, when she ought to be spending her money on food to nourish her half-starved body. I am not without hope that the British Medical Association will help on this good fight.

Dumfries, January 29.

JAMES REID.

P.S.—I have not remarked on Mr. Bell's letter, because I think the subject of "Fictionists and Journalists" has occupied enough attention. I added to my opinion, that chemists have suffered at the hands of these men more than any other class, and that they encounter at the hands of judges and magistrates more prejudice than any other class.

#### Chemists' Assistants' Union.

SIR,—May I, through your columns, draw the attention of all chemists' assistants to the benefits to be derived by becoming connected with this organisation, formed entirely for their advancement? One feature alone will be found to be well worth the annual subscription. We guarantee to find suitable employment for every member. For this purpose, he must supply the Secretary with a full history of his engagements, and it does not matter whether he is qualified or not—the berth best suited to his requirements and ability will be secured for his acceptance. Further, not only will the Union decline to assist undeserving assistants to obtain work, but they will not be registered as members. We not only desire men throughout the whole of the kingdom to be enrolled on our books, but we wish them to become active members. Our Secretary, Mr. R. E. Wright, Hampton House, St. Paneras, will be happy to secure the co-operation of men in different provincial centres, with a view to extending the Union's influence. Let it be thoroughly understood, the executive are not working for their individual benefit alone, but chiefly for the promotion of the interests of our fellow-assistants.

Yours faithfully,

C. E. PICKERING, Vice-President.

97 High Street, Manchester Square, W.

#### The Minor Examination.

SIR,—Your correspondent Dr. Greaves says that "it is a hardship, failure in one branch causing failure in all." I fail to see it. Again, he says "the proportion of failures is so large that it is doubtful whether it is equalled by any other examining board." If he will look at the last pass-list of candidates for the diploma "F.R.C.O." he will see a far greater proportion of failures. Again, he says "compare Cambridge, Victoria, and Aberdeen." I would also say compare London. If a candidate for Intermed. B.Sc., London University, fails in one subject he fails in all, and

that is a far more severe examination than the Minor. I maintain that, in the case of the Minor, the candidate presents himself too early, and deserves his fate—that is to say, in the majority of cases. I think "Minor Candidate" is trying to lay down the law a little too much. On one hand, he wants to pass the examination by easy stages, and, on the other, he wishes it were a written examination. It is not much use abusing either the examiners or the Pharmaceutical Society, and if a candidate looks for success in the examination he must certainly conform to the rules and regulations of the powers that be.

Yours very truly,

ANTIPYRIN. (247/42.)

#### Deaths under Anæsthetics Reported for England in 1899.

SIR,—It was but reasonable to hope that the many well-aimed shots poured into the stronghold of Simpson's and Syme's followers, during the last two years, by Dr. R. W. Carter, Dr. Augustus D. Waller, Mr. Edmund Owen, Dr. Robert Bowles, Professor William Ramsay, Sir Felix Semon, and Dr. Turney, would have caused the slap-dash chloroformist to recover his common-sense, and to reconsider, as advised by Dr. Waller, the principle that underlies Snow's doctrine, that "death is alone caused by breathing air too highly charged with chloroform vapour," and, that "perfect and absolutely safe anæsthesia can always be secured in patients of all ages and conditions, and in every kind of surgical operation, by the continuous inhalation of 1 to 1.5 per cent., and not above 2 per cent., of chloroform vapour." But no such desirable result has been effected. Chloroform is still given, and taught to be given, by the so-called "open" or "slap-dash" method, with the lamentable result that during the year 1899 33 deaths under anæsthetics were reported, of which 23 occurred in the following hospitals in London:—

| Deaths.                    | Deaths.                    |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Paddington Infirmary ... 1 | Victoria Hospital for      |
| Metropolitan Hospital... 3 | Children ... 2             |
| German Hospital ... 1      | St. Thomas's Hospital... 1 |
| Children's Hospital,       | St. Bartholomew's Hos-     |
| Shadwell ... 2             | pital ... 2                |
| King's College Hospital 1  | Chest Hospital, City       |
| Middlesex Hospital ... 2   | Road ... 1                 |
| Ophthalmic Hospital,       | Infirmary, Fulham ... 1    |
| Gray's Inn Road ... 1      | Royal Free Hospital,       |
| Charing Cross Hospital 1   | Gray's Inn Road ... 1      |
| St. Mary's Hospital ... 2  | New Hospital for Women 1   |

Forty-one deaths occurred in provincial hospitals and infirmaries, and 19 in private practice, in the hands of experienced and skilled anæsthetists; 15 patients dying before, 2 during, and 2 directly after the operation. Altogether 60 deaths occurred before the operation could be commenced, that is, before the patient was rendered insensible; 16 deaths occurred just as the operation was about to be commenced, or during a short operation; and 7 deaths occurred shortly after the operation was completed. In not one case was the patient removed alive from the table. The patients' ages varied from 10 months to 76 years. The following is an analysis of the anæsthetics used:—

- 62 patients died from overdose of pure chloroform.
- 2 from chloroform contained in A. C. E. mixture.
- 1 from chloroform followed by ether.
- 1 from mixture of chloroform and ether.
- 1 from A. C. E. mixture followed by ether.
- 2 from methylene.
- 5 under ether, from asphyxia or suffocation.
- 1 under ether followed by chloroform.
- 2 under nitrous oxide gas alone, from asphyxia.
- 2 under nitrous oxide followed by ether.
- 1 under nitrous oxide and ether followed by a mixture of chloroform and ether.
- 1 under an anæsthetic of which the name is not given.

It is an easily demonstrable fact that, if in every case pure chloroform had been administered from the first, strictly by the rules laid down by Dr. John Snow, not a single death would ever have been caused by this agent if administered with ordinary care.

A FOLLOWER OF DR. JOHN SNOW. (247/59)  
London, January 27.

P.S.—Whilst about to post this letter I happened to see in the *Lancet*, January 27, that Dr. James Edmunds has sent a

tremendous shot into the camp of ignorance and prejudice amidst the quacks in anaesthetics, which might have the effect not only to make them quake, but also to rouse the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons from their apathy into action, and induce them, after fifty years' misuse of chloroform, to inquire into the cause of the enormous increase in the number of fatal accidents under anaesthetics, which high authorities have always declared are easily preventable, and therefore should not have occurred, or, at any rate, should not occur again.

#### The Companies Bill.

SIR,—In view of the approaching introduction of the above Bill allow me to repeat a suggestion which, if acted on unanimously by chemists, will doubtless gain a great victory—in fact all that can be hoped for with so much capital to fight against. The suggestion is that leading chemists in each constituency should wait on their M.P., or send him a memorial signed by as many as possible, asking him to propose or support an amendment to clauses 2 and 3 as follows:—

The word person in the Medical, Dental and Pharmacy Acts, 1886, 1878, 1868, respectively, shall be construed as including a Company also.

The "Stores" will then have to drop the title of "Chemists," unless every member is qualified; at the same time it is a constitutional measure, as it does not tamper with company-law as it stands, or take away anyone's means of subsistence.

Yours, &c.,

OLD SUBSCRIBER. (249/32.)

#### Legal Queries.

Before sending in a query for reply in this section see if the subject is not dealt with in "The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary," 1900, pages 212-226, and pages 259-262.

241/25. *H. W.* has paid in 1898-99 house-duty of 6*d.* in the pound, and has discovered from *THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY* that he comes under the fourpenny rate. On appealing to the Collector he obtained an abatement on this year's tax, but cannot get him to say if he is entitled to recover the amount overpaid for the two previous years. He wishes to know if he can legally demand repayment. [The Acts which deal with inhabited-house duty and land-tax make no provision for recovery of past excessive payments, and there is no legal possibility of obtaining repayment. Of course this need not prevent "*H. W.*" importuning the authorities for the amount paid in excess and using any personal influence he may possess to get them to refund it.]

235/31. *W. L.*—A Scotch agreement to let—*i.e.*, a lease—for any period over one year must be in writing, and must state in unambiguous language the premises, the period of lease, with date of beginning or ending, and the rent. It may be most simply effected by an exchange of letters, such as an offer by the tenant and an acceptance by the landlord, or *vice versa*. The Inland Revenue stamp on a three-years' lease at 50*l.* per annum is 5*s.*, which must be impressed within thirty days following the date of the writing. It may be impressed on either the offer or the acceptance, if the contract is so effected.

246/60. *Saffron*.—If you have no written agreement with the apprentice as to the duration of his apprenticeship, he can, like an ordinary assistant, leave you by giving a month's notice.

245/30. *T. W. L.*—The fact that a doctor prescribes methylated spirit for a spray or lotion will not make the dispensing of it by you legal. Read the information in our *DIARY*, page 2:0.

240/66. *Ladysmith*, on the assurance of a traveller that certain British wines contained no alcohol, and therefore required no licence, bought some and showed them in his window. A friend told him that they were liable to duty, and "*Ladysmith*" at once removed them from his window and refused to sell them. The firm who supplied the wines acknowledged that their traveller made a misrepresentation, and after some negotiations with the traveller "*Ladysmith*" returned the wines to the firm, who have refused delivery,

and pay no attention to his letters. The railway company now tell him that the goods are lying in their warehouse at owner's risk, and he must pay expenses. What is "*Ladysmith*" to do? [We do not think that our correspondent can do any more than he has done, except that he might bring an action against the firm for damages for misrepresentation. The damage in this case would be the expense of the carriage, and perhaps something for the trouble our correspondent has been put to. The action might be brought in our correspondent's local county court, as part of the cause of action arose within the jurisdiction of that Court.]

247/74. *W. S.*—There is "no way out of it" in regard to the sale of methylated tincture of opium for veterinary purposes. The sale is illegal under any circumstances, and anyone who sells it lays himself open to the infliction of a heavy penalty. See *THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY*, page 220.

247/64. *17s.*—Registered dentists are exempt from jury-service. You will find such information as this in *THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY*, page 217.

241/33. *Noncom.* has taken in the telephone, which will carry with it agencies for several shopkeepers in other parts of the town, including a licensed grocer. Can he receive orders for wines and spirits for the grocer, who will be paid by the customers? [He may, so long as he can assure the Excise authorities, should they inquire, that he is simply using his telephone for the convenience of his customers, not his premises for the sale of wines and spirits.] "*Noncom.*" also asks if he can use local photographers' views of the district for illustrating his price-list without the sanction of the photographers. [That depends upon whether they are copyright or not; if copyright, he should not.]

241/69. *M. P. S.* asks in regard to absenting from the Minor examination if "unavoidable and proper causes" would be either (1) illness with temperature of 102° to 104°, or (2) receipt of a telegram by a candidate on the morning of the examination that the candidate's father had just died. [The first case certainly. It can be certified by the medical attendant. In the case referred to a few weeks ago there was no medical certificate. The candidate attended (technically), and the Board of Examiners excused him. This resolution for readmission at the reduced fee of 1*s.* appears to have been overruled because the by-law provision of having failed to duly attend had not arisen. If in the second case the candidate attends and produces the telegram to the Chairman of the Board the same condition would arise. The obvious inference is that when "unavoidable and proper causes" justify the candidate in staying away he should do so, and put his case in writing for the consideration of the Council.]

241/63. *Nemo*.—A query similar to yours, in respect to the Welsbach mantles, was replied to in our issue of December 30, page 1073.

240/74. *Charta* puts this case:—A tenant of a house, 19*l.* rent, payable quarterly, took possession July 1, gave three months' notice to quit on July 1 last, but has remained in possession after expiration of the three months. No written agreement. Can landlord insist on longer notice than three months? If so, how long, and when must it terminate? [In the absence of an agreement to the contrary the tenant is a yearly tenant, and the landlord or tenant is entitled to six months' notice, to terminate on the date when the tenancy commenced. When the tenancy commences close upon a quarter-day it is sometimes held to date from the quarter-day, which, in this case, would be June 24. The safest course, however, for our correspondent to adopt would be to give what is called a continuing notice, to expire in case No. 1 on June 24, or at the end of the year of the tenancy, which will expire next after the expiration of six months from the service of the notice.] "*Charta*" puts this other case:—He bought a house on March 14, 1898. Rent collected March 15, June 15, September 15, December 15. Date of commencement of occupancy unknown. What is the shortest notice he should give the tenant to quit? [The same reply in this case, only the notice would be given for September 15, in the same form.]



### Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We endeavour to reply promptly and practically to trade questions of general interest, but cannot guarantee insertion of replies on a particular date, nor can we repeat information given during the past twelve months.

216/15. *J. W.*—(1) It is not likely that you would be able to make any profit on drug-growing until you had obtained experience, but if the work is carried on scientifically it could be made a profitable side-line for a chemist. Jäger's "Der Apothekergarten" (Cohen, Hanover) would help you a little. There is no book in English on the subject. (2) Ethyl chloride is sent out in tubes with a fine nozzle, and to use it the tube is held in the hand with the nozzle directed towards the part it is required to anaesthetise. The heat of the hand volatilises the liquid. In tooth-extraction the gum is dried, and the part of the gum not required to be frozen is protected and the spray directed directed from a distance of a few inches. The patient is instructed to breathe through the nose during the spraying.

215/38. *A. S. (N.S.W.)*—(1) Gonorrhœa-mixture:—

|                       |     |     |     |        |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Ol. santal. flav. ... | ... | ... | ... | 5ij.   |
| Ol. cubebæ ...        | ... | ... | ... | 5iiss. |
| Ol. copaibæ ...       | ... | ... | ... | 5iiss. |
| Spt. vini rect. ...   | ... | ... | ... | 5j.    |
| Ext. hyini ...        | ... | ... | ... | 5ix.   |

Mix the oils with the spirit and incorporate with the extract in a mortar.

Dose: A tablespoonful two or three times a day.

(2) To make pine-apple syrup, follow the general method given for fruit-syrups on page 215 "Pharmaceutical Formulas." (3) The colour of the logwood-ink (III., "Pharmaceutical Formulas," page 334) is altered by varying the quantities of hydrochloric acid and bichromate of potassium. As the formula stands, it has always turned out a red colour with us. Try the effect of adding a little more acid. From  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 oz. of glycerin will be needed to make the ink suitable for copying.

232/19. *Inquirer*.—You seem to have overlooked the rules which govern answers in this column.

232/32. *ILNO.*—You appear to have discovered a piece of rock crystal or quartz. A firm of mineralogical experts such as Claremont & Ward, 38 Conduit Street, W., would identify it for you.

255/18. *E. V. Z.*—(1) Gelatin-coated Horse-balls are made by a similar process as that adopted in pill-coating. See "Art of Pharmacy," THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, 1898, page 497. (2) Solution for preparing Poisonous Flypapers:—

|                      |     |     |        |
|----------------------|-----|-----|--------|
| Arsenate of soda ... | ... | ... | 1 oz.  |
| Simple syrup... ..   | ... | ... | 4 oz.  |
| Water... ..          | ... | ... | 16 oz. |

Dissolve.

Bibulous paper is saturated with this solution, and dried.

231/54. *Gum Kino*.—We do not think it is at all likely that vine-growers will accept your offer of kino. It is understood to be largely used by wine-manufacturers, some say for colouring wine, but it is also the fact that certain champagne-makers use it, for what purpose has never transpired. About a year ago the market-value of the Cochin and Malabar varieties of kino in London had reached a high figure, but recently prices have receded greatly, and now are just about one-sixth what they were a year ago.

### Information Wanted.

Postcard replies to any of the subjoined inquiries will be esteemed.

243/49. Address of the makers of Photomnibus.

243/56. Present address of the firm who make Schulte's dermato-sedative.

244/34. Address wanted of a maker of vacuum-pans especially adapted for mixing malt-extract with cod-liver oil

### Trade with Canada.

THE Toronto correspondent of *Commercial Intelligence* reports an interview which he has had with Mr. Elliot, the principal of Messrs. Elliot & Co., wholesale druggists, Toronto, Ontario. The subject of conversation was—"How we have lost the Canadian market in drugs and chemicals." The interview took place in Mr. Elliot's office, and we quote it as the *C.I.* reporter writes it.

"Could you tell me something of the decline in Great Britain's exports of drugs and chemicals to this country?"

"Forty-seven years ago," replied Mr. Elliot, reflectively, "I started in this business. At that time we imported almost everything from the Mother Country, but since then this trade nearly entirely has passed into the hands of Germany and the United States. The trade in raw drugs, at one time centred in London, has been shifted to New York."

"What causes, Mr. Elliot, have in your opinion contributed to this transference of trade?"

"Well, it has been a gradual process. To begin with, manufacturers in the United Kingdom had an unfortunate notion that anything was good enough for the colonies. Then their goods were poorly packed; they were very careless as to the quantities cases contained and in providing protection against damage during transit. At the same time manufacturers in Germany enjoy certain advantages; labour is cheaper; for the manufacture of spirit there is an abundance of material, chiefly potatoes; and the removal of needless restrictions and red-tapeism has given this industry an enormous impetus. In this last-mentioned regard I understand Great Britain has to some extent followed the example set by her rival, but I am afraid it is a case of 'locking the stable door after the steed is stolen.'

"We sell more German than English quinine," continued Mr. Elliot, "because it is cheaper and purer; while trade in blue vitriol sulphate of copper has been diverted from the East to the West by the development of silver-refining in Omaha. As to soda, you are no doubt aware that there is a close corporation which regulates the prices in the United States, and a somewhat similar organisation that does the same thing in the United Kingdom. However, neither of these operates in the Dominion of Canada, so we get our soda pretty cheap, mostly from Syracuse."

"Are you of the opinion that Germany's system of technical and scientific education has played a potent part?"

"Yes, it has had an immense influence, leading in many instances to the discovery of new processes by which products are obtained in greater purity at lower cost."

"Have German manufacturers resident representatives here?"

"No."

"How do they approach you?"

"Through correspondence."

"Is their English good?"

"Often better than that of British firms, though a little bit formal."

In reply to a question, Mr. Elliot said: "Convenience of packages certainly assists sale, but I do not think attractiveness of form makes so much difference; for instance, pretty labels on bottles of Epsom salts would not be likely to increase the demand for that article," and his face lighted up with a smile.

"Has Great Britain benefited under the preferential clause in the Canadian tariff in your line?"

"Yes, somewhat; for example, it has secured to her the trade in castor oil and glycerin, formerly supplied by Germany and France."

"Do freights stand in the way?"

"On the contrary, I believe freights from London and Liverpool are lower than those from New York."

In connection with these observations we may note that the *Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal* has been saying something of the same nature deduced from the experience of a Montreal house who ordered a hundredweight of a certain chemical from an English house, in tin cases. It was sent out in jars, thus doubling the carriage. Those who wish to promote business with other parts of the Empire should look into the matter.

At the opening of a short season of German plays at St. George's Hall, London, on Tuesday evening, Fraulein Eliza Nilsson delivered a rhymed prologue by Mr. Heinrich Blau (of Hoffmann's malt fame), which was in the nature of a plea for an *entente cordiale* between Englishmen and Germans as being brothers in blood. Mr. Blau, we may state, has published at least one volume of poems in his native tongue.

## Trade Report.

**NOTICE TO BUYERS.**—The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers stock the goods. Qualities of drugs and oils vary greatly, and higher prices are commanded by selected qualities even in bulk quantities. It would be unreasonable for retail buyers to expect to get small quantities at anything like the prices here quoted.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.: February 1.

**T**HERE is a dull tone about the markets this week, especially in crude drugs, buyers having waited the drug actions held to-day. The chief movements since our last report have been a further reduction in cocaine, and an advance in phenacetin. Citric acid is again dearer, and makers refuse to name a figure owing to the stringency of raw material. A few upward changes have also occurred in English-drawn oils, such as cloves, caraway and sandalwood. German camphor has also been advanced 1d. per lb., but English is unchanged. Quinine is quiet, and slightly lower in second-hands. On Thursday, however, the market was firmer on receipt of news of small bark shipments for January. The following table gives in detail the changes of the week:—

| Higher          | Firmer          | Easier         | Lower        |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Acetate of lime | Capsicums       | Cannabis       | Balsam peru  |
| Acid, citric    | Chillies        | indica         | Cocaine      |
| Camphor         | Gum myrrh       | Dragon's-blood | Ipecacuanha  |
| (Germ.)         | Oil, anise-star | (seed)         | (Rio)        |
| Lycodium        | Oil, castor     | Menthol        | Oil, cubeb   |
| Oil, buchu      | Petroleum       | Senna          | Sarsaparilla |
| Oil, castor     | Tin crystals    |                |              |
| Oil, clove      | Wax (Bees)      |                |              |
| Oil, turpentine |                 |                |              |
| Pepper          |                 |                |              |
| Phenacetin      |                 |                |              |
| Soda, caustic   |                 |                |              |

### Arrivals.

The following drugs, &c., have arrived at the principal ports of the United Kingdom, from January 25 to 31, both inclusive:—Benzoin, 266; castor oil (E.I.), 240; chamomiles, 5; civet (case), 1; camphor, 10; cannabis indica, 98; cardamoms, 64; castor oil (Ital.), 65; china-root, 100; cinchona, 200; citronella oil, 5; coriander-seed, 201; croton-seed, 26; ergot of rye, 7; galangal, 100; glycerin, 50; gum kino, 76; gum olibanum, 49; lime-juice (pus.), 50; opium, 143; quillaia, 294; stavesacre, 10; senna, 35.

### Heavy Chemicals.

[These prices are for market-centres other than London.]

The all-round demand in the heavy-chemical market keeps up well, and for the season of the year, at all the main centres, a very good business is being transacted both on home and export account. Stocks for the most part keep as lately reported—viz., only limited and prompt or early delivery is, in cases, almost unobtainable. Values are very firm, and in view of present manufacturing costs there seems little probability of decline, in fact, the tendency keeps in an upward direction.

**ALKALI-PRODUCE.**—There is little new to report in this section. The demand for practically all products is brisk, and prices rule firm.

**BROWN ACETATE OF LIME.**—Higher and very firm, at 6l. 7s. 6d. to 6l. 12s. 6d. per ton, c.i.f., with still further upward tendency strongly apparent.

**ZINC SALTS** are steady with fair inquiry. Sulphate of zinc, crystals, 7l. 12s. 6d. to 7l. 15s. per ton. Chloride solution, 100° Tw., 7l. 10s. per ton. Pure zinc chloride cake, 1s. to 1s. 2d. per lb.

**MAGNESIUM SALTS.**—Sulphate (Epsom salts) in brisk demand and firm, at 62s. 6d. to 67s. 6d. per ton, free on rails, in bags.

Carbonate, 37s. 6d. to 40s. per cwt. Calcined magnesias, 1s. to 1s. 4d. per lb. Chloride of magnesium, 60s. per ton.

**PEARL HARDENING.**—Steady, at 3l. 8s. to 3l. 10s. per ton, f.o.b.

**SATINITE.** 3l. 7s. 6d. to 3l. 12s. 6d. per ton in casks.

**SATIN WHITE.**—Moving freely, at 5l. to 5l. 10s. per ton, free on rails, in casks.

**TIN CRYSTALS.**—Finner, at 10d. to 10½d. per lb.

**SULPHATE OF COPPER** tends easier, although it is unchanged at present.

**GREEN COPPERAS** keeps moving steadily, at 42s. to 43s. per ton, f.o.b. Liverpool, for best Lancashire makes, and about 13s. to 14s. per ton, free on rails, for Welsh.

**BICHROMATES OF POTASH AND SODA** continue in an unsettled condition, and prices stand at about 4½d. to 5d. net per lb. for the former, and 3½d. to 4d. net per lb. for the latter.

**NITRATE OF SODA.**—Ordinary, 8s. 1½d.; refined, 8s. 3d.

**SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.**—A good business has been passing, although prices are not quite so firm as they were. It seems unlikely that there will be any material decline just yet. Present figures are about as follows:—Beckton, 11l. 16s. 3d.; Beckton terms, 11l. 12s. 6d.; London, 11l. 15s.; and Leith and Hull, 11l. 12s. 6d. to 11l. 15s. Exports from Leith last week amounted to 600 tons.

**SOUTH DURHAM SALT** is strongly maintained at the late advance, and is 11s. 3d. per ton, f.o.b. Tees.

### Liverpool Drug Market.

Live: pool, January 31.

**Castor Oil.**—There have not been many sales of importance during the week, but the price is very firm indeed, at 3½d. per lb. for good seconds Calcutta, and the same price for first-pressure French. **African Ginger.**—There are no sales to report, but it is firm, 26s. per cwt. being considered value. **Canary-seed** is the little weaker, a large speculator being inclined to offer at below current rates. **Bals. Copabia.**—A small lot of 8 barrels cloudy Maranham has been sold at 1s. 5½d. per lb. **Chillies** are distinctly dearer, and 42s. 6d. per cwt. is asked for a very inferior parcel of Sierra Leone, the only holder of fine quality wanting 56s. per cwt. **Quilla-bark.**—Retail sales at from 13l. 10s. to 14l. per ton. **Bees-wax.**—Chilian has been in limited request; 103 sacks of recent import are offered at 7l. 5s. per cwt., but this figure has not, so far, been paid. **Honey.**—Chilian continues in steady request, and about 180 barrels have recently been sold at 24s. to 25s. per cwt. for File I, 23s. to 23s. 6d. for File II, and 19 barrels no File at 21s. Californian is slightly easier, about 50 cases having been sold at 45s. to 46s. per cwt. **Spermaceti.**—Chilian refined is well held at 1s. 4d. per lb., and for a small lot of crude 85s. 3d. per cwt. has been paid. **Wax, Carnauba.**—The sales have been, 65 bags ordinary, middling to good fair yellow, at 66s. 6d. to 72s., with 170 bags Ceara and Pernambuco grey at 46s. to 47s. 6d. per cwt.

### German Drug Market.

Hamburg, January 30.

Our drug-market shows a little more business, and several articles have advanced since last Tuesday. **Balsam Peru** is quieter at 13½m. per kilo. **Antimony** has advanced to 42m. per 100 kilos. **Citric acid** is very firm and dearer; to-day's quotation is 285m. per 100 kilos. **Aloes, Cape,** is tending firmer at 68m. per 100 kilos. **Camphor.** Refiners have raised their prices, and now ask 410m. for spot and 420m. per 100 kilos. for February-April delivery. **Cocaine** again reduced by manufacturers to 550m. per kilo. **Ergot of rye.** Hardly anything is offered; to-day's quotation is 550m. to 560m. per 100 kilos. **Cumin-seed** is firmer; new Maltese is 58m. per 100 kilos. **Cevadilla-seed** is very firm; no new crop has come in yet; holders ask 98m. per 100 kilos. for spot. **Lycodium** shows a very strong market; spot is very scarce; present price is 450m. per 100 kilos. **Menthol** is firm at 20½m. per kilo. **Quinine** is steady at 45m. per kilo. **Spermaceti** is firm at 292m. per 100 kilos. **Wormseed** is firm at 55m. per kilo. **Oils:** Castor is very firm at 56m. per 100 kilos. for first-pressing in barrels. Cod-liver oil quiet at 65m. per barrel; and white sweet seal oil also quiet at 48m. to 49m. per 100 kilos.

### Paris Drug-market.

We have made arrangements to receive a monthly letter from Paris by a correspondent who is in close touch with a leading Paris drug-house. He will also give early intimation of any important changes occurring during the interval. His first letter was received on January 25, too late for our Winter Issue.

The drug-market is very quiet.

**AMBERGRIS.**—The stocks are very small, and as no arrivals are expected for some time importers have tried to buy up second-hand holders' stocks, offering up to 45f. per kilo. for prime quality.

**BORAX** is a strong market, and higher prices seem probable. Present is quotation: 45f. to 46f., as to holder.



**CAMPHOR.**—Refiners quote 550f., but second-hand still invoices at 525f. per 100 kilos.

**CASTOR OIL** is in a very strong position, and prices have advanced to 72f. for extra white, 68f. for first pressure, and 67f. for second pressure, in barrels. The prevalent opinion is that we shall see higher quotations still, as consumers of cottonseed oil are said to be buying castor oil on account of the higher quotations for the former. Our largest importer of castor-seeds, who has agents throughout the crop districts, reports that, according to very reliable news, the crop of seeds is about 40 to 50 per cent. short, and he is convinced of a further rise. It is also said that on account of the war shipping accommodation is diminished, which may also influence future prices.

**CREAM OF TARTAR.**—Quiet, as usual at this period of the year, as well as tartaric acid. The former fetches 180f., and the latter 260f.

**CITRIC ACID.**—Contracts have been accepted for about 50 tons for delivery during the year at 320f., but to-day's quotation is 325f. There is some probability that prices will again rise during the summer.

**ERGOT OF RYE.**—Quite a large business has been done of late, and a few hundred kilos. of sound Spanish have been sold at 750f. per kilo., but there is nothing left. Russian ergot rises as well, and 675f. is asked to-day.

**ROSE-LEAVES.**—The crop has been insignificant, and prices have risen to 900f., and will go higher still.

**MUSK.**—Pile I. thin blue skin has been cleared. Arrivals are expected about the end of February.

**VANILLA.**—Quiet, with a downward tendency.

**VALERIAN-ROOT** is extremely scarce just now, heavy quantities having been taken out of the market since October, and to-day's quotation is 110f. to 115f. as to holder. The new crop is not due until October next, so that a fresh rise seems unavoidable.

**GUM, SENEGAL.**—The year's crop is 200 tons short, and prices will most likely be maintained up to June or July, when the new crop comes in.

### American Drug Market.

*New York, January 23.*

Business is satisfactory, and the movement into consuming channels is of good volume. *Asafetida* is in steady demand, and selling freely at 16c. to 25c. per lb., according to quality. *Beeswax* is in demand for export, and in view of diminishing stocks quotations show an advance to 29½c. for ordinary pure. *Carbolic acid* has excited much interest in view of the action of the British Government. The spot market has steadily hardened, and quotations have been advanced over 50 per cent. For crystals, in bulk, 33c. to 35c. is asked, and 40c. to 45c. in pound bottles. *Cinchonidine* is stronger in sympathy with quinine; holders now ask 28c. to 30c. *Copaiba balsam* is easier, owing to desire on the part of the holders to sell. Central American can be bought at 36c., and Para at 41c. *Ergot* is again higher, owing to cable advices, and 65c. to 70c. per lb. is asked for Russian. Supplies are very light, and the demand is good. Spanish is firm at 90c. to \$1.10. *Ipecac. (Rio)* is quiet at \$3.40 to \$3.50 per lb. *Jalap* has sold at 12½c. per lb., but 13c. is generally asked. *Quinine* continues strong at 32c. to 35c., according to brand, and holders offer very sparingly. *Salicylic acid* is very strong, in sympathy with the carbolic-acid market. Quotations at present are 42c. to 44c. "without offer." *Sarsaparilla:* Mexican is easier owing to recent arrivals and anxiety to sell. Quotations have declined to 8½c. per lb. in quantity. *Senna-leaves:* Alexandrian are in good demand and firm, owing to light supplies. Natural are held at 12c. to 15c. per lb.; and broken at 9½c. to 11c. Tinnevely are firm at 10c. to 15c. *Tragacanth* is in fair demand, and values are steady. Aleppo, prime quality, is quoted at 60c. to 70c. per lb.; Turkey, prime, at 75c. to 85c.; and 40c. to 55c. for cheaper grades.

### Cablegrams.

**NEW YORK, February 1, 2.39 P.M.**—The market tone is fairly healthy. Opium is easy at \$3-12 per lb., while refined camphor is higher at 52c. per lb. *Jalap* is hardening, the present figure being 13c. per lb.; but *ipecacuanha* is easier at \$3-35 per lb. New arrivals of Mexican *sarsaparilla* are quoted at 8½c. per lb. Iodine has advanced 25c. per lb., and cocaine has declined 50c. per oz.

**HAMBURG, February 1, 12.15 P.M.**—Refined camphor in second hands is selling 415m. per 100 kilos. spot and 425m. per 100 kilos. forward. *Lycopodium* is steady, at 450m. per 100 kilos. *Carnauba beeswax* and gum *tragacanth* are rising.

### London Markets.

**ACID, CARBOLIC.**—Steady, and unchanged. Considerable purchases on behalf of picric-acid manufacturers have been made this week, at 11½d. per lb. for 34° to 35° C.

**ACID, CITRIC.**—Again higher, and very scarce. Makers refuse to name a price, and in second hand there are sellers in limited quantities at 1s. 4d. per lb., which figure was paid early in the week. Yesterday there were second-hand sellers at 1s. 5d., and 1s. 4d. was refused. To-day 1s. 4½d. has been refused.

**ACID, TARTARIC.**—Foreign is still obtainable at 11½d. per lb., and English at 1s. 0½d.

**ASAFETIDA.**—A small business has been done in medium quality, at 47s. 6d. to 55s. per cwt.

**CAMPHOR.**—On Monday the German refiners advanced their prices ½d. per lb., now quoting ton-lots for prompt delivery at 1s. 10½d. per lb., and 1d. more for delivery over three months. On this market second-hand German refined can be had at 1s. 10d. in small quantities. English refiners make no alteration so far. Crude camphor has been in more demand, and sales of Japanese were made early in the week at 167s. 6d. per cwt., c.i.f., which has given the market a better tone. Offers for forward delivery are difficult to get, and stocks both on this side and in Japan are very low; 170s., c.i.f., is asked for parcels now afloat: the spot price is about 180s. There are reported to be sellers of Chinese at 160s., c.i.f. Another advance of ½d. in German refined took place on Wednesday—now 1s. 11d. in ton lots. Second hands now ask 1s. 10½d., and sales have been made at this figure.

**COCAINE.**—Another heavy drop occurred at the end of last week, when manufacturers reduced their quotations 1s. 6d. per oz., and now ask 16s. 3d. for 200-oz. lots, 16s. 6d. for 100-oz., and 16s. 9d. for 25-oz. quantities. In view of this reduction the market is quiet and unsettled, buyers holding aloof. Second-hand holders do not appear to be quoting.

**CREAM OF TARTAR.**—Quiet, but steady. Best white crystals are 73s. per cwt., spot, and powder 75s.; 95-per-cent. powder, 76s.; 98-per-cent. (B.P.), 79s.; and 99-per-cent. to 100-per-cent., 80s.

**GENTIAN.**—In better inquiry, business having been done this week at 15s. per cwt. spot. Dealers in Marseilles ask 14s. 6d. f.o.b., and stocks on the Continent are now very low. Split-root is practically unobtainable.

**GLYCERIN.**—Double-distilled sp. gr. 1-260 is quoted 54s. to 55s. per cwt. from makers.

**GUM OLIBANUM.**—Business is quiet and values are unchanged.

The imports into Trieste during 1899 amounted to 5,581 packages, of which 5,420 were sold during the course of the year so that the stock is only 161 packages. Some very small parcels of new crop have arrived in Trieste, which were promptly sold for picking purposes.

**GUM TRAGACANTH.**—The market is now practically cleared of the better grades, and after the recent activity, business has been on a smaller scale, qualities ranging up to 6½. 10s. per cwt. being most in demand.

**LEMON-JUICE** has advanced to 1s. 6d. per gallon.

**LYCOPODIUM.**—Firmer. There is a little to be had at 2s. per lb. spot.

**NUX VOMICA.**—The market still remains bare of stock. For forward delivery, *Cochin-seed* is quoted 11s. per cwt. c.i.f., and *Calcutta*, 9s. c.i.f.

**OIL, ANISE, STAR.**—There is more inquiry, and orders at 5s. 9d. cannot be filled, but sales have been made at 5s. 10½d. to 5s. 11d. As high as 6s. is now asked.

**OIL, CASSIA,** has a slightly firmer tendency on the spot, but prices for forward delivery are easier, at 3s. 3d. to 3s. 4d. c.i.f. for 80 to 85 per cent. oil.

**OIL, EUCHU,** has been advanced to 3s. 6d. per oz.

**OIL, CARAWAY.**—As anticipated, English oil is 3d. per lb. dearer, now 6s. 3d. per lb.

**OIL, CASTOR.**—For best medicinal Italian oil 38s. per cwt. was wanted in auction; and for *Sanguinetti's* sun-bleached medicinal oil 34s. was the limit.

**OIL, CHALMOOGRA.**—The London stock is reported to have been reduced to four or five cases; 4s. per lb. is now wanted.

**OIL, CUBE,** has been reduced to 3s. 3d. per lb.

**OIL, CLOVE.**—English-drawn oil has been advanced 1*l*. per lb., now 2*s*. 6*d*. per lb.

**OIL, COD-LIVER.**—Practically nothing doing here, and until more definite reports of the fishing come to hand in a fortnight or so, there is likely to be no change. Meanwhile new Vestralen oil is offered at 7*s*. per barrel c.i.f. In auction 6*s*. 6*d*. was the limit for good Norwegian oil.

**BERGEN, January 27.**—Advices from the fishing grounds are still not encouraging so far as number of fish caught is concerned, but the quality is excellent, the fish being exceptionally fat, even perhaps better than last year, and the quantity may still be expected to show up later in the season. Some small shipments of the new oil have already arrived at Bergen. For non-congealing oil of the new season's crop the price will probably be quoted at 7*s*. per barrel f.o.b. Bergen. Another correspondent, writing from Bergen on January 27, states that new non-freezing cod-liver oil is freely offered at a price corresponding to 6*s*. 9*d*. per barrel c.i.f. London, but without finding buyers. In a circular dated January 24 the same correspondent says that a lot of 50 barrels, expressly stipulated to be first-class oil, was lately sold at the equivalent of 7*s*. c.i.f. per barrel. There is, indeed, a good deal of inferior oil in the parcels now arriving at Bergen, still it cannot all be so classed.

**OIL, EUCALYPTUS.**—In auction a parcel of 4 cases Citriodora, which had been previously offered, were held for 1*s*. 4*d*. per lb. Privately the market is somewhat quieter this week, with small sales at 1*s*. 10*d*. to 2*s*. per lb. for B.P. quality.

**OILS, FIXED.**—*Petroleum* is again firmer at 6½*d*. to 6¼*d*. per gal. for Russian, while American water-white is firm at 8½*d*. to 8¼*d*. *Turpentine* has also been a strong and advancing market, the quotation having risen to 39*s*. 6*d*. per cwt., spot, for American.

**OIL, PEPPERMINT.**—In slightly more inquiry. American HGH oil has been sold at 5*s*. 3*d*. per lb. spot in a small way. In Japanese dementholised, business has also been done at 3*s*. 9*d*. and for 40-per-cent. oil 6*s*. is wanted. In auction no business was done; Japanese dementholised Kobayashi brand was limited at 3*s*. 9*d*. to 3*s*. 10½*d*., according to holder.

**PHENACETIN.**—The makers on Wednesday advanced their prices by 1*s*. 9*d*. per lb., and now quote 5*s*. 3*d*. for minimum wholesale quantities. Bayer's price on Tuesday was also advanced 2*s*. per lb. (now 7*s*. 6*d*.). Early in the week small second-hand sales had been made at 3*s*. 5*d*.—i.e., before the advance.

**POTASH-SALTS.**—Bicarbonate, 7*l*. 5*s*. per ton ex-warehouse, in kegs, or 6*l*. 15*s*. f.o.b. Liverpool. Chlorate, 3½*d*. per lb. in 5-ton lots, f.o.b. Liverpool, for crystals. Prussiate: English yellow, 7¼*d*. Permanganate, from 50*s*. per cwt. and upwards according to make. Montreal potashes are 28*s*. 6*d*. to 29*s*. and pearlashes 34*s*. per cwt. Bichromate is offering on this market at 4¼*d*. per lb. net in second hands. Makers are not selling.

**QUICKSILVER.**—Very firm at 9*l*. 12*s*. 6*d*. per bottle subject to confirmation, and 6*d*. less in second-hand.

**QUININE.**—Since our last the second-hand market has been very inactive, transactions being confined to odd lots by those who want to realise, and slightly lower prices have been accepted. Business done early in the week included March delivery at 1*s*. 4¾*d*. per oz., against 1*s*. 4¼*d*. last week. The spot-quotation is nominal. To-day the market is firmer, owing to the news of small bark-shipments from Java—viz., 660,000 Eng. lbs.—and business has been done at 1*s*. 5½*d*. for March, and 1*s*. 5¼*d*. for May delivery. Three cases of Tallandier's brand, containing ten 100-oz. tins, were held for 1*s*. 4¾*d*. per oz. in auction.

**SODA CAUSTIC** has again been advanced by 12*s*. 6*d*. per ton, and is now quoted at 11*l*. for 70 per cent., spot.

**SPICES.**—A good business has been done since our last report at steady to rather dearer prices. At auction on Wednesday the first arrivals of new crop Cochin *Ginger* were offered, and sold at 32*s*. per cwt. for good boldish washed rough, slightly mouldy. New crop Calicut brown rough was bought in, a bid of 32*s*. being refused; bold rough

sold at 35*s*., and medium native cut, slightly wormy at 51*s*. per cwt. There has been a good demand for Japan, and a fair quantity has been sold privately at 24*s*. per cwt. Bengal remains unchanged at 25*s*. Zanzibar *Cloves* are rather dearer, a parcel of fair bright sold at 3¾*d*. per lb.; and sales of fair at 3½*d*. on the spot and of June-August delivery at 3¼*d*. have been made. *Clove-stems* were bought in at 1¾*d*. per lb. for rather mixed leaves and broken. *Chillies* are firm, a parcel of ordinary Zanzibar sold at 42*s*. per cwt. A very nice lot of East India Capsicums, long red on stalk, sold at 39*s*. 6*d*. per cwt.; some dark and mixed being bought in at 35*s*. per cwt. *Pimento* sold at 3¼*d*. per lb. for ordinary to fair quality. *Cinnamon-chips* of good quality are scarce, and were held for 4*d*. per lb. *Mace* sold steadily at 1*s*. 10*d*. per lb. for bold red, and at 1*s*. 5*d*. for small, mixed dark. *Cassia-cera* bought in at 30*s*. per cwt. *Pepper* is dearer, Singapore black is offering at 6*d*. per lb. on the spot, and at 6½*d*. for forward shipment. Tellicherry was bought in at 6¼*d*. Singapore white was bought in, but sales have been made privately at 8½*d*. to 9½*d*. on the spot, and at 9¼*d*. to arrive. There has been a good demand for Penang white at 8½*d*., and 8¼*d*. is now wanted.

**TONKA BEANS.**—The stock of Angostura beans in Germany is estimated at 7,500 kilos, so that market is well supplied for some time to come. The article can be bought in large quantities at ½*m*. per kilo. lower prices, which are already very low. Surinam beans are seldom seen on the market, as they cannot compete in price with the better Angostura qualities.

**THYMOL.**—Reports from the Continent intimate that offers for the supply of the new crop of ajowan-seed are unobtainable owing to the plague, and that the present high prices are likely to be maintained.

**VALERIAN.**—Extreme prices continue to be asked for the small supply on the spot, viz. 42*s*. 6*d*. per cwt. for fair, while the c.i.f. price is out of all proportion. Business has been done at this figure.

### London Drug-auctions.

The sales to-day were the first of the series of "short sales, by which term the intermediate auctions of goods not previously offered will be known. The following is a statement of the numbers of original packages offered and sold:—

| Offered           |     | Sold |  | Offered          |     | Sold |  |
|-------------------|-----|------|--|------------------|-----|------|--|
| Aloes, Zanzibar   | 16  | 0    |  | Jalap            | 10  | 0    |  |
| Ambergris         | 1   | 0    |  | Lime-juice       | 21  | 0    |  |
| Annatto-seed      | 36  | 18   |  | Menthol          | 25  | 0    |  |
| Areca-nuts        | 117 | 37   |  | Oil, castor      | 45  | 0    |  |
| Balsam, Copaiba   | 1   | 0    |  | citronella       | 9   | 0    |  |
| Peru              | 8   | 2    |  | cod-liver        | 30  | 0    |  |
| Benzoin—          |     |      |  | eucalyptus       | 11  | 0    |  |
| Palembang         | 54  | 54   |  | lemon-grass      | 9   | 0    |  |
| Sumatra           | 145 | 92   |  | lime             | 5   | 3    |  |
| Canella alba      | 13  | 0    |  | nutmeg           | 9   | 0    |  |
| Cannabis indica   | 98  | 0    |  | peppermint       | 40  | 0    |  |
| Cardamoms         | 308 | 196  |  | rose (E.I.)      | 4   | 2    |  |
| Cinchona          | 80  | 80   |  | wintergreen      | 1   | 0    |  |
| Coca-leaves       | 5   | 5    |  | Orange-peel      | 27  | 4    |  |
| Colocynth         | 22  | 4    |  | Orris-root       | 23  | 2    |  |
| Cumin-seed        | 54  | 0    |  | Rhubarb          | 35  | 5    |  |
| Dragon's-blood    | 19  | 1    |  | Sarsaparilla     | 68  | 68   |  |
| Ergot of rye      | 19  | 0    |  | Seedlac          | 167 | 0    |  |
| Frankincense      | 1   | 0    |  | Senna, Tinnevely | 748 | 711  |  |
| Gum arabic        | 3   | 0    |  | Tamarinds        | 15  | 0    |  |
| gamboge           | 49  | 3    |  | Tonka-beans      | 3   | 1    |  |
| guaiaicum         | 4   | 0    |  | Vanilla          | 1   | 0    |  |
| myrrh             | 18  | 18   |  | Wax (bees')—     |     |      |  |
| sandarac          | 10  | 0    |  | Chinese          | 70  | 70   |  |
| Honey, Australian | 55  | 0    |  | East Indian      | 28  | 8    |  |
| Canadian          | 22  | 0    |  | Jamaica          | 26  | 2    |  |
| Jamaica           | 5   | 5    |  | Madagascar       | 15  | 15   |  |
| Ipecacuanha—      |     |      |  | Nyassaland       | 7   | 7    |  |
| (Cartagena)       | 34  | 0    |  | Zanzibar         | 31  | 19   |  |
| (Rio)             | 45  | 34   |  | Japan            | 80  | 0    |  |

Several odd parcels were withdrawn, however, on the protest of Mr. E. Horner and Mr. C. Umney that they were not "new goods." The idea exists among brokers that goods not previously offered can be catalogued for sale at the "short" sales, but the wholesale druggists contend that only "new goods" of recent import can be so offered.



**ALOES.**—Zanzibar was the only kind shown, but did not sell, a bid of 44s. per cwt. being refused for dark brown soft; another parcel of 4 cases soft brown treacly was held for 42s. 6d.

**ANNATTO.**—At the auctions good bright Ceylon seed brought 2d. per lb., and another lot of 18 bags was bought in at 3½d. Privately, business includes a parcel of eight bags Ceylon seed at 2d. per lb. ex auctions of January 18.

**ARECA-NUTS.**—Unchanged compared with last sales privately, as 17s. 6d. per cwt. was bid for a parcel of 16 bags sound Ceylon seed; for another lot of wormy a bid of 12s. per cwt. is to be submitted, and for 21 bags of wormy 16s. 6d. was paid.

**BALSAM PERU.**—Lower in auction when for 2 cases 6s. 6d. per lb. was paid for good thickish balsam; for the remaining 6 cases there was no bid made, and the parcel was bought in at 7s. per lb.

**BENZON.**—A good supply offered, and everything was practically sold at or after the sale at steady prices. Sumatra, good almondy seconds, well-packed (5 cases) brought 9½. 5s. per cwt.; fair seconds, well-packed with small almonds, 8½. 10s.; ditto, false packed sides, medium to boldish almonds, 7½. 5s. to 7½. 10s. per cwt. A parcel of 51 cases all sold at 7½. 7s. 6d. to 7½. 10s. for fair glassy seconds, well-packed with yellowish almonds, and 5½. 17s. 6d. to 6½. 2s. 6d. for ordinary seconds, badly packed. A bid of 5½. 15s. was also likely to be accepted for another lot of 5 cases ordinary seconds, of which the broker had no limit. Palembang all sold readily, at 67s. 6d. per cwt. for barky seconds.

**CANNABIS INDICA.**—Limits were slightly reduced in auction. Good green but stalky tops were bought in at 8d. per lb., and for green siftings 4½d. was refused.

**CARDAMOMS.**—In auction fine Mysore qualities were dearer, but medium sold at a decline of quite 2d. to 3d. per lb. The following prices were paid:—Fine bold pale smooth (Duckvari), 4s. 3d. per lb.; good medium to bold pale round, 3s. 2d. to 3s. 10d.; bold pale splits, 3s. 7d., subject; small to medium pale, 2s. 7d. to 3s. 1d.; fair medium dull, 3s. 2d.; medium pale long, 2s. 10d. to 2s. 11d.; "unclipped," 2s. 2d. to 2s. 6d.; lean brown long Mysore, 1s. 10d. to 1s. 11d.; medium specky brown, 1s. 7d.; peas, 1s. 6d.; good brown splits, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 7d. Seed, 2s. 2d. to 2s. 5d. per lb., according to quality. Ceylon-Malabar were practically all bought in, a bid of 1s. 9d. being refused for small brown. A few cases of small dull lean sold at 1s. 6d., and for good Malabar seed 2s. 1d. to 2s. 2d. was paid. Good long native "wild" sold at 3s. 8d. to 3s. 10d., and 2s. 3d. for lean.

**CINCHONA.**—A parcel of 18 bales flat cultivated Calisaya bark catalogued for sale had been sold privately. Of Crown and grey bark 62 packages were offered, and all sold at from 6½d. to 7d. for fair brown Huanoco quill, and 1s. to 1s. 1d. for good Loxa.

**COCA-LEAVES.**—Fair bright Ceylon leaves, the only kind offered sold at 1s. 0½d. per lb., and broken ditto at 7d.

**COLOCYNTH** partly sold at unchanged rates, 1s. 5d. per lb. being paid for small to medium good pale apple, and 1s. to 1s. 1d. for fair brownish pulp.

**DRAGON'S-BLOOD.**—Good thin finger sold at slightly easier rates, 10½. per cwt. being paid for a case.

**ERGOT OF RYE.**—The market privately is almost inactive, although 3s. per lb. spot has been paid for Russian in a small way. In auction good clean Russian was limited at 3s. to 3s. 3d. per lb.

**GUM ARABIC.**—Persian insoluble sorts have been in more inquiry this week, and fair to good "unworked" has changed hands at 18s. to 19s. per cwt.; and fine at 21s. 6d. The only kind offered to-day was picked Trieste grain, which is very scarce—6½. 15s. was the limit for it.

The imports into Trieste during 1899 aggregated 7,950 packages, of which, however, only about 1,000 were true Soudan gum. The greater proportion of the arrivals were hand-picked in Trieste, and only 675 packages were in stock at the end of the year. Values improved about 20 per cent.

**GUM GAMBOGE.**—Practically the whole of the London stock was offered at auction to-day, but only a fraction was

disposed of; good Siam pickings realised 6½. 12s. 6d., and bold dull rieey Saigon pipe 5½. 17s. 6d., subject to approval; low dull and drossy pipe, 92s.; for good Siam pipe of bright orange fracture 9½. was wanted.

**GUM MYRRH.**—Only one broker offered this drug, which sold at dearer rates; small to bold native-picked, somewhat reddish, brought 92s. 6d.; chips and dust, 50s.; good pickings, 44s.; and dark chips, 17s. 6d. per cwt.

**HONEY.**—Good pale set Jamaica' sold at 30s. per cwt.; Australian was bought in at 25s., and Canadian honey at 42s. per cwt.

**IPECACUANHA.**—There were anxious sellers of Rio root to-day, with the result that one broker disposed of 30 bales at a decline of 2s. to 2s. 3d. per lb. Prices opened at 11s., but gradually dropped to 9s. 6d. per lb.; fine bold sound root brought 10s. 4d. to 11s. per lb., and ordinary lean and stringy to fair, 9s. 6d. to 10s. 3d. per lb. Of another lot of 15 bales Rio, 4 bales of lean country-damaged sold at 10s. 6d., and sea-damaged at 10s. 5d. to 10s. 8d. per lb. The sound of this parcel was limited at from 11s. 8d. to 12s. per lb. No Cartagena was disposed of, although 16 bales had been sold privately. Holders to-day were willing to take 8s. to 8s. 3½. per lb., according to quality.

**JALAP.**—For small to boldish Vera Cruz tuber 6½d. per lb. was wanted.

**LIME JUICE.**—Privately offers of 3s. per gallon have been refused this week for raw West Indian, nothing being obtainable under 3s. 3d. In auction to-day 21 packages of unworked West Indian were bought in at 3s. 4d. per gal.

**MENTHOL.**—In auction no bid was made for 25 cases of Kobayashi crystals. The market privately is easier inclined, sales of Kobayashi crystals having been made at 9s. 9d. per lb., and Raspe's ditto at 9s. 6d.

**OIL, CASTOR.**—Privately the market is again dearer. Belgian of first pressing is now quoted on the spot at 30½. per ton; forward delivery 29½. f.o.b., Antwerp; second-pressing 1½. less. French is about 1½. dearer, best medicinal in casks being 34½. 10s. in casks, and 3s. more in cases. East Indian oil is also rising in price.

Calcutta advices dated January 11 report that prices are well maintained, owing to small stocks and short production. Crushers generally are reluctant to enter into contracts for quantities for forward deliveries at anything like reasonable rates.

**OIL OF LIME.**—Steady. Fair West Indian distilled partly sold at 3s. 2d. per lb., and a case of hand-pressed at 7s. 1d. per lb.

**OIL, ROSE.**—The limit for fair Bombay oil was 7d. per oz.; a few bottles of "settling" sold at 2½d.

**ORANGE-PEEL.**—Good bright thin strip was limited at 10d. per lb., at which figure sales have been made privately.

**ORRIS.**—Two barrels of powdered root sold without reserve at 33s. 6d. per cwt. Fine picked Florentine was bought in at 55s. per cwt.

**RHUBARB.**—Unchanged. Reports from Shanghai state that the season is now closed; fine Shensi is not now offered. The deliveries from the London warehouses have been good this month, and there have been few arrivals. In auction, Canton, medium and bold flat, three-quarter pinky, one-quarter dark fracture, sold, "without reserve," at 9d. per lb.; ditto, pile II, second size, similar fracture (3 cases), without reserve, at 9½d. Good round Shensi trimming-root, dull coat, three-quarter pinky fracture, one-quarter dark, was bought in at 2s. A good parcel of 23 cases flat high-dried was offered, consisting of mixed small and bold, three-quarters pinky, one-quarter dark fracture, was bought in at 10d., a bid of 8½d. being refused.

**SARSAPARILLA.**—Lower prices were accepted all round, the decline in the case of the Jamaica description being 2d. per lb., sound root selling at 1s. 6d.; first-class country damages, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d.; first-class sea-damaged, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 4d.; and badly sea-damaged, 5d. to 11½d. Of another parcel of 9 bales, 4 country-damaged sold at 6d. to 1s. 2d. Nine bales of Lima-Jamaica were disposed of after some hesitation at from 10d. to 11d. per lb. for country-damaged, and 7d. for wormy.

**SENNA.**—A moderate quantity of Tinnevely offered, and

practically all sold at about steady to somewhat easier rates. The bulk consisted of common brown and greenish leaf, which brought from  $1\frac{1}{2}d.$  to  $2\frac{3}{4}d.$  per lb., and medium to fair greenish,  $3d.$  to  $3\frac{1}{4}d.$  A few bales of good medium green leaf brought  $4d.$  to  $4\frac{3}{4}d.$  Pods sold at  $3\frac{1}{2}d.$  No Alexandrian offered.

**TONCA-BEANS.**—A case of fair black Para, few reddish, brought 1s. per lb.

**WAX, BEES'.**—Generally sold well at firm to dearer rates. Chinese, good brown block, guaranteed pure, brought  $6l. 7s. 6d.$  to  $6l. 12s. 6d.$ ; pale brown and yellow Bombay,  $5l. 17s. 6d.$ ; dark mixed Nyassaland,  $6l. 15s.$ ; Madagascar brought from  $6l. 15s.$  to  $7l. 2s. 6d.$ , according to quality; Jamaica partly sold at  $7l. 5s.$  for fair; Zanzibar brought  $6l. 10s.$  for dark brown and mixed colours.

**WAX, JAPANESE.**—At the auction good pale squares were bought in at  $32s.$  per cwt. The market privately is quiet with small sales of good pale squares at  $32s.$  spot.

### The East and West India Docks.

At the half-yearly general meeting at Winchester House on January 29, the Hon. Sydney Holland, in moving the adoption of the report, said that he was happy to present to them the best half-year's accounts that the dock companies had had in any December half-year. Last half-year there was a decrease of 48,000*l.* on the receipts of the corresponding half of 1898. This half-year there was an increase of 64,000*l.* on the corresponding half-year. There was a balance of 12,768*l.* to be divided amongst the shareholders. The full dividend of 4 per cent. on preference stock absorbed 26,600*l.* He could not imagine that there would be any serious opposition from anyone to the Bill for the complete amalgamation of their concern with the London and St. Katharine Docks Company. As to the Lighter Bill, they would expect very strong opposition. The Bill was not simply a matter of justice to the Dock Companies, but it was a matter of national expediency to the whole Port of London. How could it, with truth, be said, as it had been said, that the Dock Companies were fairly prosperous? Here they had the very best year for trade, and they were only able to give 10s. to a man who had a 100*l.* share in the Dock Company. They had in their docks last year 2,700 ships and 142,000 lighters. The tonnage of ships was four and a half million tons, and that of the lighters no less than nine million tons, and out of those 142,000 lighters they never made a halfpenny. Not only did they not make a halfpenny, but they were put to a large expense in letting them in and out of the docks. That was an evil which they intended to make some profit of. They proposed to make a small charge on these lighters, and a maximum charge of 1*d.* on every 176 lbs. of goods that came into the docks, and this proposal it was supposed by some critics, would ruin the port and drive away trade. If they did not get this Bill they would then be compelled to consider whether they ought not to raise the shipping dues, and put into force their strong Parliamentary powers against these lighters.

### Exports of Sicilian Brimstone.

The exports of brimstone from Sicily go on increasing, as the following figures show:—1899, 470,965 tons; 1898, 443,711 tons; 1897, 411,691 tons; and 1896, 400,082 tons (1 ton = 1,000 kilos.). The shipments to the United States and Canada, however, show a decline of 10,411 tons. Italy, on the other hand, bought 18,014 tons more, and Great Britain 1,314 tons more, the figures for the latter country being 20,747 tons, against 18,933 tons in 1898.

### Quicksilver in 1899.

The *Engineering and Mining Journal*, in a review of the quicksilver market during 1899, states that the Spanish mines have been actively worked during the year, but it is understood that no increase in production has been shown over the previous year. The same remarks apply to the Italian and Austrian mines. From Russia it is reported that the mines of Anerbach & Co. produced 22,000 poods (360,360 kegs). The operations of these mines are being gradually extended. The Californian mines generally did well throughout the year, and nearly all of them have been enabled to pay regular dividends. The Guadalupe (California) mine, which has been idle for nearly fifteen years, is to be put in operation again, and the engineers are now engaged in preparing plans for the repair of the old workings. The exports of quicksilver from all United States ports for the eleven months ending with November were 1,224,607 lb., against 938,704 lb. in 1898. Nearly all of these exports were made from San Francisco. A feature of the year's trade was the shipment of several consignments, totalling 4,000 flasks to China. That country had not purchased any quicksilver from the United States for several years. Another feature was a small shipment made to Vladivostok intended for

use in the mines. The contracts for delivery during the year were fully up to the production, if they did not exceed it, and the consequence has been a shortage of supplies in the face of increasing demand. In London it was difficult to obtain the metal for spot or early delivery except from secondhands, and in the United States the same condition has occurred. There seems to be every prospect that high prices will continue as high through the first part of the new year.

## Coming Events.

Notices of meetings are inserted free in this section if received by the Editor not later than Wednesday of the week before the meetings are held.

### Saturday, February 3.

*Inter-Pharmacy Football League.* Match between the Metropolitan College and the London College at Wormholt Farm.

### Monday, February 5.

*Society of Chemical Industry* (London Section), Burlington House, Piccadilly, W., at 8 p.m. Dr. W. S. Squire on "Recent Objections urged against the Adoption of the Metric System," and Mr. H. R. Le Sueur on "Oil of Carthamus Tinctorius" (safflower oil).

### Tuesday, February 6.

*Royal Photographic Society*, 66 Russell Square, W.C., at 8 p.m. Lantern evening. Mr. Ward will lecture on "Shakespeare at Home."

### Wednesday, February 7.

*Junior Pharmacy Ball* at the Portman Rooms, Baker Street, W. Tickets, 7s. 6*d.* each, may be had from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. R. L. Cassie, 49 Newgate Street, E.C., or of the Stewards.  
*Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain*, 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C., at 11 p.m. Council meeting.  
*Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland*, 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin, at 3 p.m. Council meeting.  
*Plymouth, Devonport, Stonehouse, and District Chemists' Association*, Foresters' Hall, Plymouth, at 8 p.m. Mr. C. G. Moor on "Bacteriology."  
*Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association*, 36 York Place, Edinburgh, at 9.15 p.m. Miss Madgshon on "Mucia Lemons," and Mr. H. Smith on "Serums."

### Thursday, February 8.

*Chemical Society*, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W., at 8.30 p.m. Victor Meyer memorial lecture by Professor T. E. Thorpe.  
*Chemists' Assistants' Association*, 73 Newman Street, W., at 8.30 p.m. Mr. A. H. Martin on "Quinine."

### Friday, February 9.

*Royal Institution of Great Britain*, Albemarle Street, Piccadilly, W., at 9 p.m. Professor J. R. Green on "Symbiosis and Symbiotic Fermentation."  
*Glasgow Chemists' and Druggists' Assistants' and Apprentices' Association*, 100 West Regent Street, Glasgow, at 9.15. "Play and Pleasure."

THE annual dinner of the School of Pharmacy of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain will be held at the Holborn Restaurant, London, on February 21. Tickets, 5s. each, may be had from Mr. E. M. Chapman, or Mr. J. Lawson, 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C.

MR. WILLIAM DITTMAR, the managing director of Schering's Chemical Factory, died to-day (Thursday) at Berlin.

SELL'S "DIRECTORY OF TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES" registered in London and the provinces has just been issued for 1900. The up-to-date nature of this useful work may be gathered from the fact that nearly 50,000 alterations have been made in it since the last annual issue. The Directory contains practically all the telegraphic addresses registered with the Post-office in the United Kingdom, and in addition includes a special alphabetical section, by means of which the sender of a telegram may be traced by the addressee, even though the message be signed by a code-word only. Two maps of South Africa are enclosed with the volume, which is published by Mr. Henry Sell, 167 Fleet Street, E.C.





